

Soviet accident spurs call to shut U.S. nukes

The accident that occurred at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Ukraine is another grim reminder of the serious hazards of nuclear power. And it has sparked renewed demands by opponents of nuclear power in the United States and Western Europe to shut down all nuclear power plants in their countries.

Although there has been widespread speculation and even hysteria by the West European and U.S. news media about the extent and character of the mishap, only a few hard facts have yet been reported.

The Soviet government has announced that two people died as a result of the accident that occurred in one of the plant's four

EDITORIAL

generating units. As of May 1, 197 had reportedly been hospitalized, 49 of whom were discharged after examination.

The announcement also said that the residents of four towns in the area had been evacuated. The power plant is located at Pripyat, a new town of about 25,000 people. The town was built in the 1970s, along with the plant, and many of the workers live there. Pripyat is 60 miles north of Kiev, a city of 2.3 million people. Kiev has been temporarily placed off-limits to reporters.

The plant is located in the "breadbasket" of the Soviet Union, and the release of large amounts of radiation as a result of the accident could contaminate the rich agricultural land and livestock.

The government of Poland announced that radioactive fallout had been detected at all 200 of the country's monitoring sites. The Chernobyl plant is just 280 miles southeast of the Polish border.

The Polish government has taken precautionary measures, including restricting the sale of milk and issuing medicine to children to protect against radioactive iodine.

Hours prior to the Soviet government's announcement of the accident, Swedish, Danish, and Finnish scientists reported radiation levels 3 to 10 times higher than normal in their countries.

In Sweden, the high radiation levels were at first thought to be due to an accident in one of the country's own 12 nuclear reactors.

There is widespread opposition in Sweden to the use of nuclear power, and news of the accident in the Ukraine reignited protests. The People's Campaign Against Nuclear Power demanded that the government immediately shut down all Swedish nuclear plants, at least until the cause of the Soviet accident was studied.

The Swedish government pounced on the accident to demand that the Soviet nuclear system be placed under international control. At the same time, the government claimed that safety standards in Sweden's own nuclear industry were so high that the Swedish people had nothing to fear.

Even as this statement was being made, an official of the government's Radiation Protection Institute was forced to admit at a news conference that the unusual radiation levels first registered on April 27 were not heeded in a timely way "because we do not actually have a proper alarm system functioning."

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'Contra' terrorists get more arms from U.S.

BY HARRY RING

The Reagan administration is escalating its military support for the *contra* war against Nicaragua. Guns and ammunition stockpiled in Honduras have been released, the CIA has been dispensing secret funds, and a White House-supported anticommunist outfit was authorized to send a large military helicopter to the U.S.-sponsored mercenaries.

The White House clearly isn't waiting for the congressional vote on Reagan's proposal for \$100 million to the *contras* — which has been delayed until mid-June — to provide these mercenaries additional aid.

On April 23, U.S. officials who insisted on remaining anonymous disclosed that a supply of guns, ammunition, and other matériel sufficient to last into the summer had been turned over to the *contras*.

They claimed this came from a stockpile slated for delivery last fall but assertedly delayed by the Honduran government.

They also claimed that this obviously substantial amount of weapons had been bought with private money. They said the *contras* refused to disclose where the money came from.

A *contra* spokesperson said some of the newly released weapons were being sent to Costa Rica to be used by forces there allied to the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, the

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Militant/Nancy Cole

Houston protest against contra aid. May 17 actions will oppose U.S. war on Nicaragua.

Haiti: 8 killed by U.S.-backed junta

BY TOM LEONARD

Eight people were killed and dozens injured when troops opened fire on a demonstration in Haiti's capital city of Port-au-Prince on April 26.

The protest was organized by the League of Former Political Prisoners. It was a commemoration of the thousands of people who were tortured and murdered during the nearly three decades of tyranny, first under François Duvalier and then under his son, Jean-Claude.

The demonstration started with 2,000 participants at the Sacred Heart Cathedral. As they began to march to Fort Dimanche they were joined by thousands more, mostly youth.

Fort Dimanche was the military barracks used by the Duvaliers as a torture chamber and political prison. From 1957, when "Papa Doc" took office, until Jean-Claude fled Haiti earlier this year, an estimated 50,000 people were murdered or "disappeared."

Since Duvalier's ouster on February 7, mass mobilizations have continued throughout Haiti. Protesters are demanding the destruction of every remnant of the Duvalier dictatorship, including removing his supporters from all government posts, the army, and the police.

The Haitian people are also demanding some justice for the thousands of victims of Duvalierism. To date, none of the members of Duvalier's private army, the Tontons Macoutes, have been put on trial for the robbery, murder, and torture that were their stock-in-trade.

Another popular demand is for an elected, civilian government. Haiti is currently run by a three-person military-dominated junta headed by Gen. Henri Namphy. A high-ranking officer under Duvalier, Namphy was appointed to head up the government by the dictator as Duvalier fled.

Following the murderous attack on the Fort Dimanche demonstration, Namphy defended the violent action of his troops. He claimed "little groups of agitators," who are trying to destabilize the government, provoked the shootings.

Namphy's government is an unstable operation. The mass upsurge that forced Duvalier to leave also destroyed much of the old government apparatus. Because there was no organized, credible capitalist opposition to Duvalier, the army was put in

charge. But it isn't much of a government.

Hubert Ronceray — one of the 60 people who have announced that they will run for president if elections are ever called — said after the shootings that the government "has proven it cannot govern." Ronceray is a sociologist who was jailed several times under the Duvaliers.

Gérard Gourgue, a human rights activist who resigned from the ruling council a month ago in protest against the govern-

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All-out effort needed to put Socialist Fund over top

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

An all-out effort is needed in the last week of the \$100,000 Socialist Publication Fund. With over \$120,000 pledged to the fund, we can meet our goal by the May 10 deadline if special steps are taken by supporters of the socialist publications right away.

Branches of the Socialist Workers Party, which have made the fund a top priority, are now organizing to meet this challenge.

SWP members in Dallas, for example, began a concerted effort to collect the \$4,000 pledged by supporters of the socialist publications in their city. Their success is noteworthy. To date, they have collected \$2,500 toward the \$4,000 goal. Over \$1,300 was collected in one week.

"With a little extra effort," Kathryn Crowder, a leader of the Dallas SWP, told the *Militant*, "we will be able to collect the balance."

"The lateness in collecting the pledges," she said, "was due to the traveling party members and supporters have been doing over the last few weekends. Members of the branch, as well as our supporters, went

to Washington, D.C., for the March 9 abortion rights demonstration. Many members went with coworkers to Austin, Minnesota, for the April 12 solidarity rally for striking meatpackers.

"But," she continued, "once the branch began to organize the pledge collection, it was easy. Branch members are excited about the fund, excited about what the fund is used for."

Other branches of the SWP report similar confidence in their ability to meet their local goals by the end of the drive. Special efforts are under way to talk to all those with outstanding fund pledges so payments can be collected in the next week.

One exciting activity the fund will help with is the sales team now traveling throughout the Midwest (see story on page 2). This team will be distributing the *Militant*, the Spanish-language biweekly *Perspectiva Mundial*, the *Young Socialist*, and Pathfinder literature at plant gates and campuses throughout the region.

As the fund enters the last week, \$50,568 has been received. Clearly, with a systematic effort, we can complete the fund in full and on time.

Ohio: 'Militant' builds support for Hormel strike

BY ALAN EPSTEIN

TOLEDO, Ohio — Over the past two months, *Militant* sales teams have received a good re-

sponse from workers at Hunt Wesson, a tomato-processing plant, and at the nearby Crown Cork and Seal can plant. During this time we've sold more than 60 copies of the *Militant*.

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

Hunt Wesson is organized by

the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), and the can plant by the United Steelworkers of America. Each plant has about

300 workers, but during the tomato harvest Hunt Wesson hires hundreds of seasonal workers in addition.

There are regular readers at both plants who have change ready in their hands to buy the *Militant*. Others honk and wave as they drive by and tell us to "Keep up the good work."

The *Militant's* coverage of the UFCW Local P-9 meatpackers strike in Austin, Minnesota, has received a good response, especially from Hunt Wesson workers who belong to the same union. When we gave out leaflets put out by Local P-9 asking support for the boycott of Hormel products, several workers asked for handbills to circulate inside the plant. Some of them said that a struggle such as

the one in Austin could be just around the corner for them as well.

We also have regular sales at the Sun Oil refinery in Toledo, which is organized by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers. We usually sell several *Militants* here at the late afternoon shift change. These workers are also interested in the *Militant's* coverage of the Hormel strikers' fight for a decent contract. One reason is that in 1984 their local waged a determined strike to beat back many of the concessions Sun Oil was demanding.

We also recently took the *Militant* to Diversitech, a textile plant organized by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Union members there enthusiastically took literature on the meatpackers' strike and bought several *Militants*.

We also have successful plant-gate sales at the AMC Jeep plant in Toledo, which is organized by the United Auto Workers. There is strong support in this plant for the Hormel strikers. The Auto Workers' local at Jeep recently voted to send a financial contribution to the Hormel strikers.

'Militant' sales team off to good start in Iowa



Kate Kaku, SWP candidate for governor of Michigan, is one of four sales-team members.

BY ELLEN HAYWOOD

DUBUQUE, Iowa — Meatpacking workers at the FDL Foods plant here bought 80 copies of the *Militant* from a socialist sales team that spent an hour talking to these unionists. FDL is a subsidiary of Hormel, whose plant in Austin, Minnesota, is being struck by Local P-9 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

The workers at FDL are also organized by the UFCW. Close to 300 workers refused to cross roving picket lines set up by the Austin strikers here on February 17, bringing production at the FDL plant to a virtual standstill for the day.

"There is a lot of discussion here about P-9," said one FDL worker we talked to April 30 during our visit here.

FDL was the first stop of a team of socialist workers who will be traveling throughout Iowa and northern Missouri for a couple of weeks selling the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the *Young Socialist*, and signing up new members to the Young

Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party.

"We showed the workers the *Militant's* coverage of the Austin strike and talked about the articles protesting the U.S. government's war against Nicaragua and the bombing of Libya. These are the things workers are discussing," said Argiris Malapanis, team captain and a national leader of the Young Socialist Alliance.

The team will also visit campuses, working-class communities, and other plants in Dubuque before moving south along the Mississippi to Davenport, another industrial center in Iowa.

Our team will be concentrating on sales at meatpacking plants, agricultural centers, and college campuses.

Malapanis is a 27-year-old trade unionist from Minnesota. He has been active in winning support for family farmers in their fight for fair prices for their produce and against foreclosure on their farms.

YSA leader Kate Kaku, a 25-year-old

Chrysler worker from Detroit, is also on the team. She is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Michigan. One of her opponents is liberal Democrat Gov. James Blanchard, who just sent the Michigan National Guard to Honduras to join Pentagon military maneuvers there. Kaku is an opponent of U.S. intervention in Central America.

SWP member Floyd Fowler is also on the team. He just lost his job at a United Auto Workers-organized plant in Denver. The plant is shutting down and moving to another state to reopen as a nonunion shop. Fowler was part of a delegation sent from his union to the national P-9 solidarity rally in Austin in February.

Ellen Haywood is a national leader of the YSA and the fourth member of the sales team.

U.S. escalates military aid in contra war

Continued from front page

principal U.S.-sponsored mercenary outfit.

On April 29 the State Department said it had authorized delivery of a UH-1B Huey military helicopter to the Honduran-based contras.

The helicopter, of a type used in the Vietnam War, was purchased by the United States Council for World Freedom, a rabid ultraright outfit headed by retired Maj. Gen. John Singlaub.

The contras have been seeking helicopters for some time. Until recently they had two smaller ones, but one was shot down on a mission inside Nicaragua.

The fiction is that the new helicopter will be used only for "humanitarian" medical evacuation inside Honduras.

A Washington spokesman for the mercenaries said, however, that he hoped it would also be used inside Nicaragua. The contras have been seeking helicopters to transport troops and evacuate wounded. This would help them escalate their dirty war within Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed that the CIA, which Congress supposedly barred from giving military aid to the contras, had secretly funneled several million dollars to the counterrevolutionaries over the past year.

The money was assertedly used for "po-

litical projects." These included the monthly wages of contra officials, as well as funds to open offices in Europe and Latin America.

The October 1984 decision by Congress was supposed to ban CIA involvement with the contras.

The CIA apparently couldn't care less. These moves come in the context of the White House pressing the Honduran government to take a more direct part in the war against Nicaragua.

All of these developments confirm that it will take massive, organized public opposition to stop this reactionary, illegal war against Nicaragua.

An important step in this direction is helping to maximize the turnout for the May 17 Armed Forces Day antiwar demonstrations being organized in cities across the country by the Pledge of Resistance.

What Working People Should Know About the Dangers of Nuclear Power

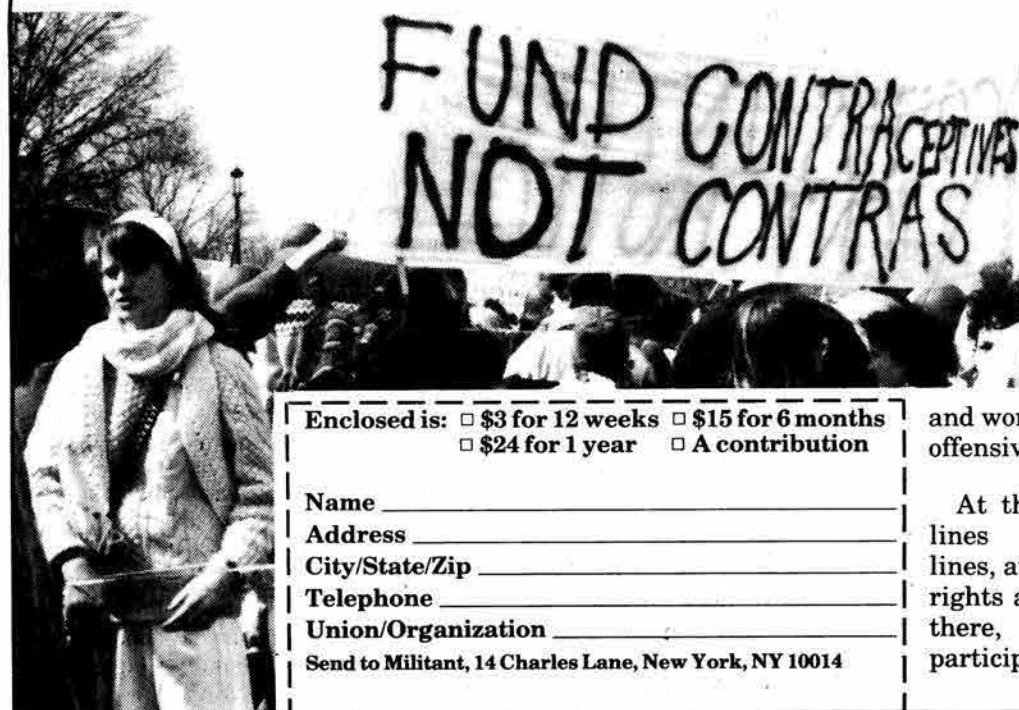
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That's the way you'll get facts about Washington's war against working people at home and abroad: from South Africa and Nicaragua, to embattled workers and farmers in the U.S. Read our ideas on how to stop apartheid, war, the oppression of Blacks and women, and the employer offensive against all workers.

At the plant gates, picket lines and unemployment lines, at antiwar and abortion rights actions, the *Militant* is there, reporting the news, participating in struggle.

The Militant

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Why Reagan wants to overthrow Libya gov't

BY HARRY RING

Secretary of State George Shultz served notice in an April 27 interview that his government intends to buttress its military attacks on Libya with a program of "disruptive" covert action.

Shultz, of course, did not specify what the "disruptive" actions would be. But if they're secret and "disruptive," they're obviously not legal or peaceful. Sabotage of oil facilities? Commando attacks on military installations? Assassinations? Any or all of these things could be part of such a package.

Clearly, Washington is determined to overthrow the Libyan government and will use any justification it can come up with. The hue and cry about Libyan "terrorism" is simply a smoke screen.

The real reasons for Washington's aggressive stance stem from U.S. economic, political, and military stakes in the oil-rich, strategic Middle East/North Africa region.

For U.S. bankers and oil barons, this is a vital area of the globe. With the aid of its junior partner, Israel, the U.S. government has used all the power at its command — military, political, and economic — to dominate this region.

In the drive to maintain their grip on the area, Washington and Wall Street have faced many obstacles. One particular problem has been the Libyan government of Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi — a government that has stubbornly refused to knuckle under to U.S. dictates.

The problem has been particularly aggravating because the previous Libyan government, that of King Idris, was one of the most subservient to imperialism in the entire oil-producing region.

The Qaddafi government, in power since 1969, represents the deep-going nationalism of the Libyan people who have suffered long years of brutal imperialist domination.

A big, mainly desert country, with its rich oil resources yet to be discovered, Libya was first targeted for takeover by Italy at the end of the 19th century.

But the mainly nomadic Libyan tribes stubbornly refused to yield their land and in 1911 Italy launched a massive invasion to crush the organized resistance that developed.

A fleet of ships shelled Libyan coastal towns and an invasion force of 34,000 captured the capital, Tripoli, and other areas. The "pacification" of Libya was under way.

Set back during World War I, Italy returned in earnest in 1919, with 70,000 troops, tanks, artillery, flamethrowers, and a fleet of bombers.

In 1922, under Mussolini's fascist regime, the war became increasingly savage. Tribal encampments were bombed, wells poisoned, and herds destroyed.

Entire sectors of the nomadic population were driven into concentration camps. A 200-mile barbed wire fence was strung across the desert border with Egypt to keep out supplies for the resistance forces. The rebels were finally overwhelmed.

As the Israelis were to do later to the Palestinians, the Italian colonialists drove the native population off the better lands. With their land gone and herds slaughtered, the Libyans became a pool of low-paid manual labor in countryside and cities.

Italy's defeat in World War II ended its



Oil workers in Libya. After 1969 overthrow of King Idris, much of Libya's oil wealth was nationalized — an example that imperialism does not want oppressed people to follow.

colonial rule of Libya. In 1943, French colonial troops joined the British in occupying the country. Britain and France then administered Libya until 1951, when it was granted formal independence.

By then Libya was virtually stripped of

its resources — it had little industry and not enough agriculture to feed its people. And it was saddled with a ruler, King Idris, who was persuaded that spineless acceptance of foreign domination was the most profitable policy, at least for himself and his handful

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Socialist conferences set for 13 cities

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

Beginning the weekend of May 10, the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance will be sponsoring regional educational conferences in 13 cities across the country.

These events will bring together activists from the trade union and farm movements, anti-apartheid fighters, participants in the antiwar and Central America solidarity movements, and fighters for women's rights. Most of the conferences will take place before school is out to maximize the participation of students, who have been

involved in quite a bit of political activity this spring.

Each conference will feature a major talk by an SWP or YSA leader on the political situation in the United States and around the world.

The conferences will also include classes on one of three themes: the trade unions today and the fight for a class-struggle policy; imperialism and the U.S.-backed war in Central America; and the oppression of women. Classes on this last topic will be based on the new book from Pathfinder Press, *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women*.

Each of the conferences will bring together activists from several cities.

On the weekend of May 10-11, conferences featuring classes on the trade unions today will take place in Atlanta, Washing-

ton, D.C., and Los Angeles.

That same weekend, events in Salt Lake City and Seattle will feature classes on women's oppression.

On May 17-18, a New York City conference will be held with classes on both the oppression of women and war and imperialism.

That weekend, conferences in Boston, St. Paul, Cleveland, and St. Louis will feature classes on the trade unions today.

On the weekend of May 31-June 1, there will be conferences in Houston and San Francisco on women's oppression. There will also be a conference in Pittsburgh.

For more information about the socialist educational weekends in your area call the SWP or YSA nearest you (see directory on page 12).

SALES SCOREBOARD

(Week #7: Totals as of Militant issue #16, PM issue #8)

Area	SINGLE ISSUES			
	Militants and Perspectiva Mundials sold this week	Total sold so far	10-week goal	Subscriptions sold so far
Atlanta	156	776	1,040	9
Baltimore	73	552	810	26
Birmingham	119	426	900	11
Boston	80	802	1,000	66
Capital District, N.Y.	73	448	730	41
Charleston, W. Va.	61	502	600	11
Chicago	163	748	1,500	21
Cincinnati	46	262	600	4
Cleveland	35	372	900	22
Dallas	115	931	1,700	25
Denver	56	490	800	26
Detroit	100	1,214	1,570	26
Greensboro, N.C.	91	538	650	37
Houston	297	1,324	1,800	42
Kansas City	32	476	1,120	12
Los Angeles	249	1,504	2,000	61
Louisville	29	252	375	6
Miami	34	286	550	27
Milwaukee	122	516	750	27
Morgantown, W. Va.	58	522	700	6
New Orleans	68	452	650	38
New York	359	2,372	3,250	97
Newark	185	1,593	2,600	74
Oakland	96	578	1,135	10
Philadelphia	68	468	1,000	8
Phoenix	128	853	1,500	26
Pittsburgh	80	390	650	14
Portland	67	454	650	18
Price, Utah	6	74	250	1
Salt Lake City	70	487	640	19
San Diego	94	344	580	4
San Francisco	155	782	1,300	35
San Jose	105	682	1,000	44
Seattle	67	586	800	20
St. Louis	100	728	1,250	16
Tidewater, Va.	63	272	375	8
Toledo	37	324	500	36
Twin Cities	134	996	1,600	36
Washington, D.C.	69	651	800	39
Total sold this week	3940			
Total sold so far		26,027		1,049
10-week national goal			45,000	2,000
Percent of national goal reached			58%	52%
To be on schedule			70%	70%

Campus sales boost drive

BY TOM LEONARD

There are several encouraging things to report as we begin the eighth week of our 10-week national sales drive.

First is that so far 27 out of 39 branches of the Socialist Workers Party have reported plans for new sales target weeks. Of these 27, six are planning two target weeks. This serious effort should give a substantial boost to completing a successful campaign. Percentage-wise, we are still lagging behind where total sales should be at this stage of the campaign (see accompanying scoreboard).

But there was a marked improvement in last week's sales compared with the previous week, the sixth of the campaign.

During the seventh week, combined sales of the *Militant* and the Spanish-language biweekly, *Perspectiva Mundial*, totaled 3,940 plus 148 subscriptions. This represented a jump of more than 900 copies over the week before.

Another piece of good news was the excellent sales to students on campuses across the country. Houston sales teams sold 171 *Militant*'s and two subscriptions on Texas campuses.

These included 120 copies sold at the University of Texas in Austin during a week of anti-apartheid actions on the campus.

The Texas sales teams reported that the coverage on Libya got a good response. Students they talked to were very much against the bombing of Libya, even though most were confused by Washington's campaign of lies and slanders about the Qaddafi government and terrorism.

A Salt Lake City sales team had met a student who strongly objected to the *Militant*'s defense of Libya. When they ran into the same student last week he had changed his position. He bought a *Militant*

and said he was sorry he didn't have enough money to get a subscription.

In North Carolina, Greensboro sales teams visited three campuses and sold 22 *Militants* plus two subscriptions. One student at the University of North Carolina saw the *Militant* headline against the U.S. bombing of Libya and said, "I'm so glad someone is writing what I am thinking," and then bought a subscription.

In Portland, Oregon, a sales team took 10 *Militants* to the Portland State campus and quickly sold them, along with two subscriptions. Many students liked the *Militant*'s coverage of Libya.

At Upsala College in New Jersey, campus workers organized by District 65 of the United Auto Workers are on strike. They held a campus strike-support rally on April 26. Forty-five participants bought the *Militant* from a Newark sales team.

A sampling of other campus *Militant* sales included: University of Minnesota, 14; University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 14; Arizona State, 10; and Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh, 10.

A *Perspectiva Mundial* sales team from San Diego went to San Ysidro, a U.S. town on the Mexican border, on April 26. They sold 15 copies and two subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*. A Mexican woman asked the salespeople if *Perspectiva Mundial* was the paper that opposed the U.S. bombing of Libya. When she found out it was, she thanked them and bought two copies.

The excellent campus sales, continuing good community and plant-gate sales, and sales at antiwar, anti-apartheid, and abortion rights actions demonstrate the continuing interest in a variety of political developments that we've noted since the sales drive began. This should be a big help to us in the closing weeks of the campaign.

Hundreds of anti-apartheid protesters arrested at Yale

BY RASHAAD ALI

Police have arrested 213 anti-apartheid protesters at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, in 12 days of protests. The April 28 *New York Times* reported that since April 4, a total of 322 protesters have been arrested. According to the *Times*, these were the first mass arrests ever on the Yale campus.

The protests were organized by the Coalition Against Apartheid. The coalition is demanding that Yale divest all of the university's \$400 million it holds in companies that do business with South Africa.

The university presently has a "selective divestments" policy that limits its investments in companies involved in South Africa to those that supposedly denounce apartheid or plan to leave South Africa some time in the future.

"We don't want our tuition going to support that racist system," explained Leslie Frane, a graduate student at Yale. "We've tried for years to do the polite thing, to work through the channels. But it's only through confrontation that we get any response" from the university, she said.

On April 14, police arrested 78 students who blocked university supervisory personnel from dismantling a shantytown on the campus green.

The shantytown was called Winnie Mandela City, after the South African freedom fighter and anti-apartheid leader. It was built to dramatize the plight of South African Blacks.

Maintenance workers, members of Local 35 of the Federation of

University Employees, refused to take down the shantytown, saying, "Let Yale do its own dirty work." Local 35 and Local 34, which organizes clerical workers, voted last winter to demand that their pension funds be divested from companies that do business with South Africa. This request was turned down by the Yale Corp.

The shanties were built April 4 by 75 students as part of a national week of anti-apartheid actions called by the American Committee on Africa to commemorate the anniversary of the 1960 Sharpeville massacre in South Africa. The administration had threatened to take legal and disciplinary action if the shanties were not removed from the campus green by noon April 5. Several hundred students showed up to defend the shanties that day. This forced the administration to back down.

On April 15, New Haven police arrested 20 people for blocking a city sidewalk while protesters participated in a sit-in on the steps of Yale's bursar's office.

The next day, cops arrested 60 more students for blocking the entranceway to the administration building. Forty-seven more were arrested on April 27.

The arrests have been criticized by faculty members, 150 of whom signed a petition against the administration's crackdown.

More than 500 students participated in an outdoor anti-apartheid teach-in on April 18. A number of the arrested students wore their arrest citations as badges of honor. Students were urged to volunteer for "direct action" and one student said that "we will escalate our protest" against university complicity with apartheid.

The students' determination was expressed by protest leader Charlotte Hitchcock: "As long as Yale continues to support the bloodbath which is apartheid,

business as usual is not acceptable at this school."

Louisiana State: 150 protest 'contra' aid, apartheid

BY JIM ROGERS

BATON ROUGE, La. — On April 14 about 150 students and others from the community rallied on the Louisiana State University (LSU) campus to protest Washington's support to apartheid in South Africa and to the contras trying to overthrow the government of Nicaragua.

The rally was sponsored by the Progressive Student Network and heard speakers from the African Students Association, LSU National Organization for Women, General Union of Palestinian Students, November 29 Committee, Committee Against Military Intervention in Nicaragua, Students for Nuclear Disarmament, and the Young Socialist Alliance. Entertainment between speakers was provided by local jazz, blues, and rock musicians.

The spirit of the rally was captured by Prof. Mariba Carimoco from Southern University. He spoke about the need to unconditionally call for an end to all U.S. support to apartheid, including an end to all investment and business by U.S. corporations in South Africa. Carimoco pointed out that the tax money paid by U.S. companies to the South African government "is directly responsible for the bloody repression of South African Blacks."

There was unanimous opposition to funding the contras. David Klein, speaking for the Committee Against Intervention in Nicaragua, condemned support for the contras and ridiculed the idea that tiny Nicaragua is a military threat

to the United States. After explaining the gains of the Nicaraguan revolution, he pointed out that "Reagan is afraid of the example of Nicaragua to the rest of the world; that you can stand up to the United States."

U.S. terrorist attack on Libya protested in Albany

BY GEORGE KONTANIS

ALBANY, N.Y. — About a hundred people rallied in Capitol Park April 18 to show their opposition to the U.S. terrorist bombing raid on Libya.

Donna DeMaria of the Pledge of Resistance, which has organized several large marches and rallies to protest funding for the U.S.-organized contras, called attention to the murder and injury of Muammar el-Qaddafi's children by the U.S. bombs. She also pointed out that "the U.S. support of terrorism by the contras in Nicaragua is state-sponsored terrorism."

Kathryn Shea, chairwoman of the Social Workers for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament, called the bombing of Libya "atrocious."

Five students from the State University of New York at Albany (SUNYA) said they will stay outside the Federal Building in Albany conducting a hunger strike to protest increased U.S. government attacks on Libya and Nicaragua. Their action is to coincide with an eight-day jail sentence being served by two SUNYA students who participated in a protest against the proposed \$100 million contra aid bill.

Some participants in the crowd took issue with a petition calling for sanctions against Libya that was distributed by rally organizers. They pointed to the need for

sanctions against racist South Africa, not the Libyan people, who are the victims of Washington's latest round of terror.

Mich. students demand honorary degree for Nelson Mandela

BY BOBBI SPIEGLER

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — An all-night vigil was held April 17 in the administration building at the University of Michigan campus here. The protest immediately followed the University Board of Regents meeting where the request for an honorary degree was refused South African anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela.

Concerned students and faculty are demanding that a bylaw be waived by the Board of Regents that denies honorary degrees to those unable to be present to accept them. Mandela is serving a life sentence in a South African jail.

Students, faculty, and members of the Ann Arbor Free South Africa Committee (FSAC) testified at board hearings. Several speakers pointed to the importance of solidarizing with the struggle against apartheid. They have been on a seven-month campaign to persuade the board to grant the degree. More than 2,000 signatures were collected on the campus urging that the degree be granted.

An alternative commencement will be held on May 3. Hector Delgado, spokesperson for FSAC, explained: "We will give an honorary degree to Nelson Mandela and show that thousands of students at the University of Michigan are adding their voices to growing numbers around the world who are demanding, 'End apartheid. Free Nelson Mandela!'"

Abortion rights supporters defend Ky. clinic

BY ESTELLE DeBATES

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Supporters of abortion rights gathered at a candlelight vigil at the EMW clinic in downtown Louisville on April 18. The Jefferson County chapter of the National Organization for Women organized the vigil in response to Joseph Scheidler's presence in the city. Scheidler is the key leader of the Pro-Life Action Network, which tries to shut down abortion clinics through violent, illegal actions.

Jefferson County NOW President Melody Wolder explained that the vigil was being held "in memory of the women who died as a result of illegal abortions and the women who would die from illegal abortions if right-wing violence is not stopped." She called Scheidler a "terrorist" who advocates clinic invasions and sit-ins.

Wolder told the crowd about the March 26 invasion of an abortion clinic in Pensacola, Florida. The morning after Scheidler had conducted a workshop on how to disrupt clinics, 50 right-wing thugs invaded the Ladies Center in Pensacola. They ransacked the clinic, hurting two clinic workers and two NOW members and doing extensive damage to the medical equipment.

These events in Pensacola and Scheidler's participation in an anti-abortion-rights banquet in Louisville prompted NOW members here to reach out to others for support against right-wing terror. Members of A Woman's Place, Council on Peacemaking and Religion, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), Fellowship of Reconciliation, Progressive Students League, and Socialist Workers Party joined the vigil. So did others who happened to be passing by, such as a young Black couple with two children. They stopped and asked what was taking place, stayed to hear the speakers, and left wearing "Don't Yield Your Right to Choose" stickers.

The crowd then marched around the sidewalk in front of the clinic, carrying signs such as "We will never go back," "Keep abortion safe and legal," and "Stop clinic bombers: American terrorists."

NOW member Carol Cohan reported on the "Celebration of Life" banquet that Scheidler had addressed in Louisville. Scheidler (who repeatedly referred to feminists as "the lovelies") blasted the abortion rights marches that NOW organized on March 9 and March 16 in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles. Cohan reported that Democratic Rep. Romano Mazzoli of Louisville was a guest speaker at the banquet.

The following morning the media reported that five state representatives and three state senators also attended. These capitalist politicians sat there as Scheidler made such threats as, "People say we can't impose our morality on others. But the time has come when we have to say, 'you just watch us.'"

The following morning, 15 NOW members were organized to escort patients to and from the clinic.

Eight right-wing antiabortionists harassed patients, saying, "Please don't kill your baby, please. I'll do anything to help you have your baby. I'll even give you money."

The right-wingers eventually called the cops for help. Incredibly, the cops warned NOW members not to block the path of the right-wingers or make any physical contact with them. In fact it was foes of abortion rights who were blocking the path of patients and trying to provoke a confrontation with the escorts.

NOW members stayed at the clinic until the opponents left.

Estelle DeBates is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in the 3rd C.D. Her opponent is Romano Mazzoli. She is also a member of Jefferson County NOW.

St. Louis: antiabortion convention picketed

BY ELLEN DORFMAN

ST. LOUIS — Abortion rights activists here put up a picket line April 18 outside the national convention of the Pro-Life Action Network (PLAN) at St. Louis University.

PLAN is a group whose stated purpose is to organize illegal, disruptive, and violent activity aimed at shutting down abortion clinics.

The main purpose of the PLAN conference here was to train members in harassment and intimidation of clinic patients. The conference participants were specifically instructed in the techniques of dismantling medical equipment typically found in abortion clinics.

Many people were outraged at the illegal focus of the conference and sent letters of protest to St. Louis University Chancellor Rev. Thomas Fitzgerald demanding the cancellation of the conference. Fitzgerald refused, and the picket line was called on five days' notice by the Missouri National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL).

The 100 pickets included members of NARAL, National Organization for Women, United Auto Workers union, and Latin American Solidarity Committee, along with students from St. Louis University and Webster University and clinic escorts.

Shortly after the abortion rights pickets lined up, some of the PLAN conference participants attempted to heckle and shout down the chanting demonstrators. Several right-wingers, carrying huge pictures of fetuses, physically threw themselves into the midst of the picket line. But before long right-wingers gave up their attempt at disruption because of the spirited response of the abortion rights supporters, whose favorite chant was "Women's screams are not so silent — stop this conference! End the violence!"

As the picket line ended at the appointed time, people walked to their cars calling, "See you tomorrow!" Many of them were clinic escorts who would be on duty at 7:00 a.m. Saturday at all area abortion clinics.

This was organized because the PLAN conference schedule included an item called "Field Training" from 7:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

The clinic workers and escorts knew that this meant they had to be prepared for anything. More than 40 escorts turned out at the clinics Saturday morning.

A few minutes before 7:00 an explosion rocked the area near the Regency Park Medical Center, which houses three abortion clinics. A cheer went up from a crowd of 200 antiabortion "protesters," who immediately sat in in front of the doors of Regency Park.

The police loaded a total of 107 abortion rights foes into two vans and a bus and took them to jail. The remaining protesters did everything they could to intimidate patients, clinic staff, and escorts.

Clinic escorts tolerated a lot of personal insults in order to be available to help patients enter the clinic building. The end result was very satisfying — not one patient was prevented from keeping her appointment.

Socialists announce California campaign

Garment worker heads party slate

BY ANÍBAL YÁÑEZ

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Matilde Zimmermann is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California. For 20 years she has been a fighter for the rights of working people and against imperialist war.

Zimmermann joined the Young Socialist Alliance in 1967, after having participated in protests against the U.S. war in Vietnam. A year later she joined the Socialist Workers Party. She became secretary of the GI Civil Liberties Defense Committee, which rallied support for soldiers persecuted because of their opposition to the Vietnam War.

She later was elected national coordinator of the Women's National Abortion Action Coalition, which organized several demonstrations in support of legal abortion prior to the 1973 Supreme Court decision recognizing abortion as a constitutional right.

In 1980 Zimmermann was the Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president of the United States on a ticket headed by presidential nominee Andrew Pulley.

She subsequently went to Nicaragua and wrote articles supporting the Sandinista-led revolution for the *Militant* and other socialist publications.

Zimmermann currently works as a cutter at Koret, San Francisco's largest garment manufacturer, and is a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

At an April 9 news conference in the state capital of Sacramento announcing her candidacy she showed reporters the open letter in English, Spanish, and Chinese she had passed out to all her coworkers at Koret to let them know about the campaign.

Asked about the response, she said people "were surprised that a worker — someone who punched the time clock with them and worried as they do about getting laid off at the end of the day — was running for governor. A couple have started calling me 'governor,' and offered to help out on the campaign. In fact, one Filipino coworker spent five hours the day after the announcement cooking for the first campaign reception."

Zimmermann pointed out that not everyone at Koret liked her campaign. "But a number of people have told me they like what I have to say about the issues — for example, my speaking out against Nicaraguan *contra* aid and against deportations of undocumented workers, and my support for women's right to abortion."

"I'll tell you what kind of campaign I'm going to run," she said. "This morning on my way here I joined the 'human blockade' of students at the Berkeley campus protesting the University of California's invest-

ments in apartheid South Africa. In a couple of days I'm going to Austin, Minnesota, to join thousands of other unionists from around the country in solidarity with the meatpackers there who are on strike against Hormel. And from now until April 19 I will be asking everyone I meet to join the march in San Francisco that day, protesting U.S. intervention in Central America."

The socialist candidate also spoke at a rally in Oakland April 6 to launch the campaign of Miesha Patterson, the SWP candidate for U.S. Congress from the 8th C.D.

One of the best-received speakers at that rally was a young Salvadoran garment worker who is the newest member of the San Francisco Young Socialist Alliance.



Matilde Zimmermann (right), Socialist Workers candidate for governor of California, at solidarity rally with Hormel strikers in Austin, Minnesota.

Illinois socialists hit attack on Libya

BY ED WARREN

CHICAGO — The Socialist Workers Party candidates in Illinois launched their campaigns with a denunciation of Washington's attacks on Libya.

Omari Musa, the party's candidate for U.S. Senate, told a news conference that the U.S. aggression was "an unprovoked act of war against the people of Libya."

Musa pledged that the SWP campaign would "tell the truth to working people in Illinois about the real source of terrorism." He cited the U.S.-organized *contra* war against Nicaragua as "another example of Washington's massive use of state terrorism against workers, farmers, and oppressed nations around the globe."

The SWP slate consists of Musa, Diane Roling for governor, Jim Little for lieutenant governor, Holly Harkness for secretary of state, Scott Dombeck for state attorney general, Jim Miles for state comptroller, and Stephen Bloodworth, Cathleen Gutekanst, and Pedro Vázquez for University of Illinois Board of Trustees.

The socialist candidates were heard on eight radio stations, including a Spanish-language station. Articles appeared in both major daily newspapers, the *Chicago Sun-Times* and the *Chicago Tribune*.

The socialist candidates for lieutenant governor and secretary of state — Jim Little and Holly Harkness — will be opposing Mark Fairchild and Janice Hart, two members of the fascist National Democratic Policy Committee who won the Democratic primary nominations for these offices. The socialists are also running against the Republican nominees.

"We are explaining the danger this anti-democratic, antilabor, racist outfit represents to workers and farmers who are fight-

ing to defend themselves from the employers, landlords, and banks," Harkness said of the National Democratic Policy Committee. "We are going to expose their demagogic claims that 'Jewish bankers' — and not the capitalist system and the capitalist ruling class — are the cause of the problems we face," said Harkness.

The SWP candidates plan to campaign actively among farmers. "We think the idea of replacing the capitalist government with a workers' and farmers' government will appeal to a growing number of workers and farmers," said gubernatorial candidate Diane Roling.

The candidates stress the importance of defending affirmative action programs. "We call for strict enforcement of affirmative action quotas," said Musa, "as the only way to make sure that Blacks, Latinos, and women don't have to continue the cycle of being the last hired and first fired."

All the SWP candidates are encouraging solidarity with the Hormel workers on strike in Minnesota and locked out in Iowa.

And they are defenders of a woman's right to abortion.

Stephen Bloodworth, Cathleen Gutekanst, and Pedro Vázquez, the candidates for University of Illinois Board of Trustees, are actively campaigning on campuses. They seek to win support for the demand that the university divest itself of all investment in apartheid South Africa.

The socialist candidates are workers and active members of their unions.

When they went to work after launching their campaigns, some of the candidates reported considerable interest from their coworkers.

Roling and Bloodworth work for the clothing manufacturer Hart, Schaffner, and Marx and belong to the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers' Union. They were greeted with handshakes, congratulations, and wishes of good luck from coworkers.

Roling said that a cutter she had never met came to her table to introduce her to a woman coworker who had seen Roling and Little on television and wanted to meet a worker who was running for office.

Several coworkers volunteered to help the campaign. Such help is needed. State law requires the Socialist Workers Party to collect 25,000 signatures in order to qualify for ballot status.

"The day after the press conference was an exciting day at work," said candidate Holly Harkness, a member of the United Steelworkers of America. One of her coworkers had clipped the newspaper article on the socialist campaign and taped it on the door of the Inspection Department where she works. A number of workers said they liked the candidates' proposal to attack unemployment by reducing the workweek to 30 hours for 40 hours pay.

Rail worker enters Senate race in Pa.

BY STEPHEN BRIDE

PHILADELPHIA — Mike Carper, a 32-year-old rail worker, opened his campaign for U.S. Senate here April 17 with a denunciation of the Reagan administration terror bombing of Libya.

In a statement to the media, Carper, who is running on the Socialist Workers Party ticket, called the attack "a serious escalation in Washington's war against oppressed nations and working people anywhere who stand up against U.S. corporations and their government."

Noting the bipartisan support for the air raid, Carper singled out the position of his Democratic opponent in the senatorial race, Rep. Robert Edgar, who regretted only the absence of "more support from our allies."

Carper is employed as a conductor on the Regional Rail Division of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority. He is a member of United Transportation Union Local 61.

Carper also condemned "the terrorist attacks carried out in Nicaragua by U.S.-backed contras. Reagan calls these rapists and murderers his brothers."

The war against working people, Carper said, "is being waged not only in Libya and Nicaragua, but also right here in the United States." Referring to the May 1985 attack on the house of the Black organization MOVE, Carper said, "In Philadelphia, the government bombed a house, burned a neighborhood, and murdered 11 people, claiming this was necessary to stop 'terrorism.'"

"The only adult survivor of this massacre, Ramona Africa, has been sentenced to from 16 months to seven years in jail — also without one shred of evidence."

Carper has twice visited Austin, Minnesota, site of the strike of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 against the Hormel Co. Most recently, he participated in an April 12 rally of 6,000 in support of the strikers.

The war against working people has been carried to Austin as well, he said, citing a police attack on P-9 picket lines the day before the rally.

But Carper also saw something else in Austin. "This strike is charting a new road forward for U.S. labor, based on union democracy and union solidarity."

Socialists in garment, textile union build support for P-9

BY ELIZABETH FARLEY

NEW YORK — Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance members who work in sewing factories and textile mills organized by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) met here in March.

Wendy Lyons, a member of the SWP's Trade Union Bureau, gave the political report to the gathering. Pointing to the recent overthrow of tyrants Jean-Claude Duvalier and Ferdinand Marcos, Lyons said, "Our side recently scored victories in Haiti and the Philippines. Two hated tyrants have been deposed, opening up the opportunity for working people in those countries to begin to take political action in their own interests."

"These developments and the unfolding revolution in South Africa against the hated apartheid regime are buying time for the Nicaraguan people in their continuing struggle against the U.S. imperialist-organized *contra* war," Lyons explained.

Participants in the meeting voted to make activity in defense of Nicaragua a top priority for their work in the coming months. This includes participating in public protest demonstrations against the U.S. war on Nicaragua such as the April 19 anti-war action in San Francisco.

Socialist ACTWU members also discussed helping to initiate educational anti-

war activities on Central America, like slide shows at union meetings, circulating an appeal by Nicaraguan unionists for sewing machine parts; publicizing speaking tours of Central American unionists, and sales of the *Militant* and the Spanish-language biweekly *Perspectiva Mundial* in the plants.

A second priority set by the meeting was to organize support for the United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) Local P-9, which is on strike against the Geo. A. Hormel Co. in Austin, Minnesota. Becky Ellis, a member of ACTWU Local 402-T in Portland, Oregon, presented a report on this strike.

Ellis stressed the importance of the example of P-9 to workers in ACTWU who are living today under the concession contracts recently signed in the cotton and wool garment sections of the industry. The garment bosses were able to force through a two-tier vacation pay scheme, a two-year wage freeze, and promises of lump-sum bonuses in place of wage increases.

In many ACTWU locals there was little or no discussion organized prior to voting on the contract. Most members covered by these agreements didn't even see the proposed contracts before they were asked to make their decision.

Participants at the gathering voted to

Continued on Page 12

Reactions to bombing of Libya

Report on discussions in factories around country

BY TOM LEONARD

"Hot, heavy, and constant." Those words summarize how socialist workers in about a dozen plants across the country described the initial discussions among co-workers about Washington's attack on Libya.

Portland socialists who work in the Boeing aerospace and the Freightliner truck assembly plants, both organized by the International Association of Machinists (IAM), reported that discussions around their opposition to the U.S. bombing were heated but not hostile.

Socialist workers at three Portland, Oregon, garment shops organized by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union said that some workers' response was "We should have bombed the hell out of Libya." But most didn't like what Reagan was doing. They saw the attack on Libya as a move toward war, which they didn't want.

A socialist worker at the General Dynamics plant in Dallas reported that the atmosphere in the plant immediately after the U.S. attack was somewhat intimidating. Initially the majority of the workers, she said, had a "rah, rah," attitude toward the bombing. But by the end of the week there were a lot of questions about Washington's actions. As some workers began to see the bombing as an act of war, they wondered, "What does that mean for us who might be fighting in it?"

There are still daily discussions in the plant about the attack. While some who support the bombing are hostile to those who oppose it, others want to discuss it. One worker, for example, bought the *Militant* for the first time to read the coverage on Libya. She liked the article titled "Why Libya is a target of imperialism."

The discussions in the Dallas General Motors plant, organized by the United Auto Workers, was also very intense. In some cases the discussions were so heated that they broke up long-standing friendships between assembly-line workers. A whole layer of Black and younger auto workers disagreed with Reagan's bombing. They said Reagan is the madman and "he's going to get us involved in all kinds of stuff that we don't want to be involved in."

There were similar discussions among auto workers in the General Motors plant in Atlanta. Some Black workers called the Libyan bombing racist.

In Lawrence, Massachusetts, there was a wide-ranging discussion among textile workers in a plant organized by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. "More than a handful of workers opposed the attack," said one worker. These workers said they "didn't like Qaddafi but this bombing was crazy."

Some Dominican and Puerto Rican workers who support the Nicaraguan revolution thought the Libya attack was bad for Central America.

But there were also a few workers who support Nicaragua who at first thought it was OK for Washington to bomb Libya. One of them argued, "If they do this to [Nicaraguan President] Daniel Ortega, that's one thing. You can't do this to him. But to Qaddafi? He's crazy. It's different." One person began to rethink this position after Reagan's speech accusing Nicaragua of being the Libya of Central America.

The political discussions in the plant spurred sales of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. In the week following the bombing, three subscriptions and several single copies were sold to Lawrence textile workers.

Many Los Angeles aerospace workers, at an IAM-organized plant, believed Washington's charges of terrorism against Qaddafi and thought they justified the bombing. "How could he have gotten away with this for so long?" was a common question.

The Filipino workers in the plant were the most open to discussing a different point of view. Given the U.S. govern-

ment's reactionary role in the Philippines, they're suspicious about Washington's policies elsewhere.

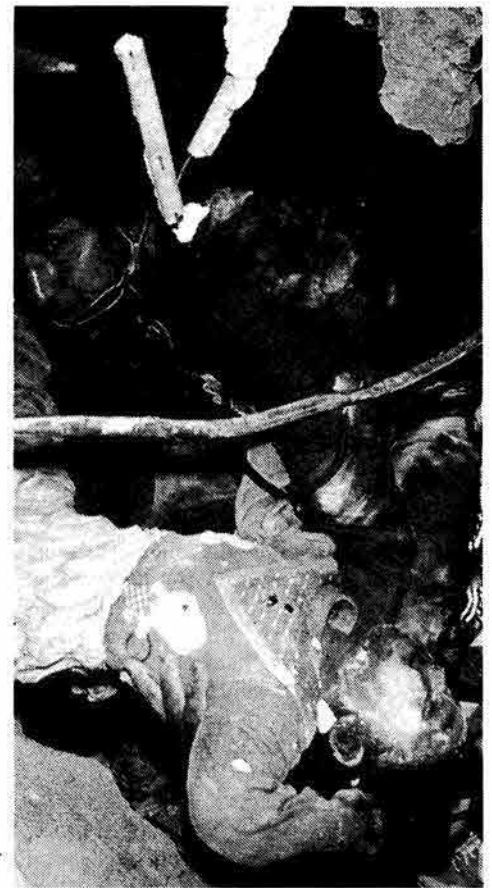
Some workers connected the attack on Libya to the U.S.-backed war against Nicaragua. One worker observed, "I wouldn't be surprised if the next time they bomb Libya they don't stop on the way to drop a few bombs on Nicaragua."

At the General Electric plant in Seattle, which makes jet-engine parts, the bombing put a temporary chill on political discussions.

When socialist workers in the plant tried to give out election campaign statements protesting the U.S. bombing, some workers were flabbergasted. Others wanted to be "secretly opposed" and not say anything.

A couple of workers were so hostile that they ran to the company and got a foreman to stop the circulation of the statements. Other workers didn't like this approach.

One worker who took the statement said that he had been surprised by the massive demonstrations around the world against the U.S. attack on Libya. "You may be a minority in the United States," he said, "but you are in a majority in the world."



Child victim of U.S. bombing of Libya. Socialist workers report that their opposition to this U.S. act of war was a point of view that many coworkers were willing to have a serious discussion about.

Why Reagan is out to crush Libya

Continued from Page 3

of cronies. (Throughout the period of the resistance to Italian domination, Idris had remained in Egypt, nursing his health.)

Although seemingly devoid of resources, Libya's geographical location gave it a major strategic value. During the war British and U.S. military bases were established there. After independence, a treaty was signed with Britain giving it the right to station troops in Libya. And Washington was granted the right to maintain the Wheelus Air Base, near Tripoli. It was the biggest U.S. military installation abroad.

In 1958 major oil wells began producing. Agreements were quickly signed providing foreign developers 50 percent of the profit on Libyan oil, along with particularly generous "depletion" and "depreciation" allowances. Exxon, Texaco, Marathon, Atlantic-Richfield, and other giant U.S. oil corporations were in on the pie early.

It seemed like a perfect setup. Oceans of oil poured from the ground, the take was huge, and the regime of Idris "stable" and subservient.

But neither Idris nor his imperialist backers could isolate Libya from the political ferment that gripped the Arab world during that period.

In 1964, there were big demonstrations by Libyan students against the U.S. and British military presence.

And in 1967, when Israel launched its aggrandizing "June War" against its Arab neighbors, there were strong protest demonstrations by port and oil workers in Tripoli and other Libyan cities, with students joining in.

The continuing poverty suffered by the great mass of Libyan workers and peasants and the further upsurge of Arab nationalism generated by the Israeli aggression led, in September 1969, to the overthrow of Idris. His rule was ended in a military coup led by 12 officers. All were lieutenants or captains and all of lower middle-class or nomadic peasant origin.

Qaddafi, then a captain, emerged as leader of the group and became head of the new government.

The new leadership was strongly nationalist. The U.S. Peace Corps, which Idris had brought in to replace Egyptian technicians and teachers, was asked to leave. All street signs were changed to Arabic. All businesses were to be owned 100 percent by Libyans. Later, the financial and industrial holdings of Italian settlers were expropriated.

Social programs were undertaken, in-

cluding plans for the reclamation of desert land for farming, building a railway network, and launching a literacy campaign. The minimum wage was doubled.

A key ingredient of foreign policy, the new government declared, was to promote Arab unity. Increasingly, the policies of Washington and the other imperialist powers were challenged.

The help-yourself attitude toward the big oil operators was ended. The Libyan share of profits was increased. The previous 50-50 split of the surplus was scrapped, with the Libyan government now taking 80 percent or more of the profits.

In March 1970, the British withdrew their remaining military forces from the country, and in June, the big U.S. base at Wheelus was vacated.

In 1974 the Libyan subsidiaries of Texaco, Standard of California, and Atlantic-Richfield were nationalized.

For Washington and Wall Street, all of this adds up to a bad example for other oppressed peoples around the world. In fact, in their lexicon, it's naked terrorism.

St. Louis celebration marks opening of Pathfinder Bookstore

BY KIM KLEINMAN

ST. LOUIS — More than 50 people gathered here to celebrate the opening of Pathfinder Books at its new location at 4907 Martin Luther King Drive.

Rev. Ted Braun greeted Pathfinder Books as "a place where those of us in the center of the empire can learn from those fighting at the periphery." He was referring to Pathfinder's publication and distribution of the speeches and writings of leaders of the Cuban, Nicaraguan, Grenadian, and South African revolutions.

Braun, a frequent visitor to Cuba, reported on his most recent trip, including a meeting with Fidel Castro.

Braun referred to Castro as "a leader who reads books." He explained that bookstores in Cuba are an important part of political life and that books are cheap so that they are available to all. He said Cuba's literacy campaign, carried out in the years following the revolution, was aimed at giving all working people the ability to study, learn, and participate fully in political life.

Also speaking at the celebration of the new political center were Safiyah Chauvin from the All-African People's Revolutionary Party; Lucia Miller, an organizer for the Missouri affiliate of the National Abortion Rights Action League; and Pat Grogan from the *Militant*.

'IP' on Australia's farm revolt

As in the United States, farmers in Australia have been hard-hit by rising debts, economic depression, and government policies that favor rich capitalist farmers over working farmers.

The upcoming, May 19 *Intercontinental Press* will feature a background article by Ron Poulsen on the plight and struggles of Australian farmers. Poulsen is a longtime leader of the Fourth International in Australia.

Poulsen surveys the structure of Australian agriculture, emphasizing the different class forces that exist in the countryside. At the top are the owners of finance capital and the large landholders, cattle ranchers, and capitalist farmers. At the bottom are working farmers (a majority) and farm workers.

Working farmers have suffered most from debts and economic crises, while the capitalist farmers have benefited.

Last year saw widespread protests among farmers, including a

large national demonstration outside Parliament. Poulsen points to the need for the unions to champion farmers' needs and for the forging of a worker-farmer alliance.

The current, May 5 *IP* contains a firsthand report from the Philippines on the struggles of sugar cane workers in Negros Province.

Intercontinental Press is a biweekly that carries more articles, documents, and special features on world politics — from Europe to Oceania and from the Middle East to Central America — than we have room for in the *Militant*. Subscribe now.

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Nicaragua gov't sets higher prices, wages

Measures are aimed at stabilizing economy in face of U.S.-backed war

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Prices on basic goods and services here have gone up sharply in the last two months. To help working people cope with the increased cost of living, the Nicaraguan workers' and peasants' government has decreed a 50 percent across-the-board wage increase.

The government announced new price and wage increases on March 9. In motivating them, officials stressed the giant economic dislocation caused by the U.S.-financed war against Nicaragua. Sandinista leaders also pointed to other recent measures taken by the government — including wage hikes and the devaluation of the córdoba — that raised costs of production.

The new prices and wages are aimed at stabilizing the economy as much as possible in the context of the war — and at increasing production.

The government set higher wholesale prices for farm products, with a resulting increase in consumer prices for food. Among the foods in the basic working-class diet, rice rose from 22 córdobas a pound to 40 córdobas; beans, from 60 to 75 córdobas a pound; and sugar, from 22 to 35 córdobas a pound. The price of milk is now 40 córdobas a liter, with a government subsidy of an additional 20 córdobas.

Chicken has gone from 160 a pound to 220 and fish from 180 to 250. A Coke now costs 100 córdobas; cigarettes are 100 a pack; and a beer costs 200 córdobas — double their previous prices.

These are the official price lists set by the government, which it distributes through small neighborhood grocery stores and some supermarkets and state stores. In the big private markets, however, the prices are frequently much higher.

The government also raised intercity bus fares and the price of gasoline, which went up by two-thirds. Water and electricity rates also went up.

Workers' wages

With the new 50 percent wage raise, a minimum-wage worker in the city takes home 2,476 córdobas a week, not counting incentive and overtime pay. A production worker in the middle of the wage scale takes home 5,790 a week.

Farm workers' weekly wages range from 1,909 to 2,291 córdobas. And domestic workers make 994 córdobas a week.

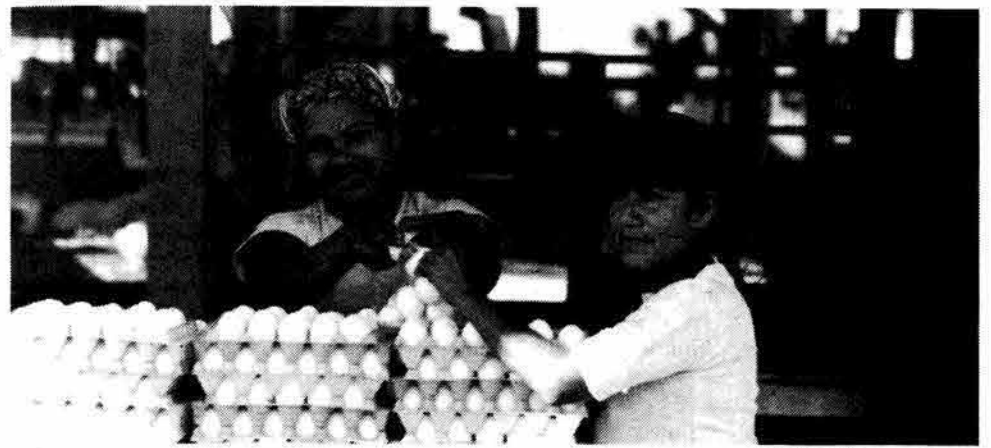
Feeding a large family on this income is very difficult, and clothing and shoes are even more expensive, beyond the reach of the lowest-paid worker. A pair of workboots, for example, costs more than the monthly salary of a minimum-wage worker. A simply designed blouse or man's shirt costs as much as 10,000 córdobas. Dungarees are between 25,000 and 30,000 córdobas. Many families, in order to make

ends meet, have more than one wage earner.

The new measures came as something of a surprise, given that a major wage increase had been made two months earlier on January 1. At that time, officials announced that no price hikes would be permitted, although the government was studying possible increases for some items.

The Ministry of Internal Commerce (MICOIN) launched an aggressive and well-publicized campaign to fine merchants caught illegally raising prices. It is on a campaign to shut down shops of those operating without licenses or distributing unauthorized goods.

This has had some effect. While prices
Continued on Page 13



Market women in Managua. Price and wage hikes are aimed at trying to increase production by workers and farmers.

Militant/Agnes Chapa

Move to equalize distribution of goods

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Nicaraguan government will guarantee a monthly quota of three pounds of rice, one-half liter of cooking oil, four pounds of sugar, one pound of salt, and one bar of soap to each person in the country, according to Commander Ramón Cabrales.

"We know this does not constitute a full diet," Cabrales told an April 10 news conference. "Obviously, consumers will have to buy other products on the open market."

Cabrales is the head of the Ministry of Internal Commerce (MICOIN). This ministry tries to guarantee certain minimum supplies at low prices to Nicaragua's workers and peasants. MICOIN distributes products through small neighborhood grocery stores and some supermarkets and state stores. When the product is not available there, working people are forced to go to the big private markets where prices are much higher.

"Our goal is to set quotas that we can actually guarantee everyone each month," Cabrales explained. "If more products are available in sufficient quantity, we will try to guarantee a monthly quota for them too."

The 1985-86 rice harvest met only two-thirds of the goal. Thus MICOIN has had to use part of the army's strategic reserve to maintain the monthly quota for the population, Cabrales said. He added that the Soviet Union and East Germany have pledged to donate 25,000 tons of rice that will ease the shortage when it arrives.

The cotton harvest, which provides seed to make cooking oil, also fell well below projections. This forced the government to reduce the monthly quota, since Nicaragua does not have the resources to import more oil.

The key to turning this situation around

is increasing agricultural production, Cabrales said. Farm workers, peasants, and government officials are now meeting to assess the last harvest and prepare for the 1986-87 cycle.

The U.S.-organized war against Nicaragua is their biggest obstacle. Fifty percent of the national budget has to go for defense and 20 percent of the workers and peasants are in the military instead of producing in the factories and farms. The U.S. economic sanctions against Nicaragua make it difficult and more expensive to obtain spare parts for the U.S.-made machinery still in wide use here.

"Faced with the U.S. aggression, we are only able to maintain a subsistence economy," said Cabrales. "We are trying to stabilize the supply situation, but cannot promise any increase in monthly quotas in the foreseeable future."

Many small neighborhood grocery stores have been plagued with shortages, even of the five guaranteed items. This is due in part to the low production, said Cabrales, but also to insufficient transportation; inefficiency and inexperience in many stores and in MICOIN itself; and in some cases, to corruption and black market speculation.

MICOIN often does not know exactly how much is produced or where it goes, he said. This is especially true of the large amount of production and distribution in private hands.

There are now 30,000 licensed retailers in this country of 3.5 million people.

In the case of rice, private producers are assigned 43 percent of the production goal,

and private wholesalers control 30 percent of the distribution. Fifty percent of cotton production is in private hands.

A major cooking-oil factory, Aceitera Corona, is privately controlled. Workers there have repeatedly charged the owners with sabotaging production, including diverting scarce cooking oil to the production of more-profitable margarine.

One of the reasons MICOIN has transportation problems, Cabrales said, is that it has to rely in part on private truck owners. Many prefer to haul private loads rather than fulfill MICOIN contracts at government-set rates, he explained.

In an attempt to regulate and improve distribution, MICOIN worked with the Sandinista Defense Committees in each neighborhood to carry out a massive consumer census in the Pacific region of Nicaragua during February. This census was used to calculate how many people should use each neighborhood store and to issue new ration cards. With this information, MICOIN hopes to supply each store with adequate supplies to meet the monthly quota of all consumers assigned to it.

MICOIN is also working with the neighborhood committees to train 4,000 "popular inspectors" to help check on distribution at the local level. These are workers, housewives, and retired people from each neighborhood who are authorized to inspect local stores and report problems or irregularities to MICOIN. Workers are also being trained to inspect the production in their factories to be sure it goes to the proper wholesaler or distribution center and is not diverted to the black market.

New prices to help peasants meet costs of production

SÉBACO, Nicaragua — In a visit to this agricultural community and other farm areas in northern Nicaragua, the *Militant* found that poor peasants welcomed the new price increases.

At most cooperatives we visited, peasants said their costs of production had been too high to make ends meet. "We were selling a carton of tomatoes for 100 córdobas, but it cost us 200 córdobas to produce it," said the production secretary at the José Valverde Cooperative here. The new prices, he said, will "almost stabilize things for the co-op."

"People should understand that we're not the ones responsible for high food prices," he added. "It's the middleman," referring to merchants who buy up farm produce and drive it from the countryside to the city, where they resell it at much higher prices.

The peasants at several co-ops indicated that they try to sell as much as they can of their produce directly to government agencies. That way they feel it will get to working people at a decent price. But most find they have to sell some to capitalist merchants who offer a better price.

A peasant in San Dionisio, in Matagalpa Province, showed us the chains of garlic he

sells directly to the local community at 200 córdobas apiece.

This peasant cannot afford to buy a truck. Parked outside his farmhouse was a pickup being loaded with garlic by a merchant who was going to take it to the city market. We learned that he would probably sell it there for 1,000 córdobas a chain.

At the Leonel Valdivia Cooperative in Chagüitillo, near Sébaco, a member of the financial committee said their prices had not been meeting production costs.

"Our biggest problem is the merchants. They've been difficult to eliminate," he said.

This co-op, which does own a truck, takes its produce directly into the city and sells it there to capitalist merchants, eliminating one step in the inflationary spiral. But many other peasants can't do that, he explained, and are stuck selling to middlemen.

The financial committee member also complained about a local landlord who owns a cabbage farm nearby and is also a big capitalist merchant in Managua.

The landlord sells the cabbage directly from his farm to a middleman, who trucks it into Managua. There the very same landlord buys it back and puts it up for sale at inflated prices.

— C.J.

Workers need to raise productivity

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — If workers organize to raise productivity levels and production, future prices and wage readjustments can be "less drastic," Lucio Jiménez said. Jiménez, general secretary of the Sandinista Workers Federation, and Edgardo García, general secretary of the Association of Rural Workers, were speaking to reporters about the new economic measures.

"If we worked more to control the factors that affect production," said Jiménez, "we could reach the point where these [economic] measures are not applied violently and are done in a more gradual way."

Jiménez called for more labor discipline and a struggle against absenteeism. He said low productivity in factories means higher costs of production and fewer goods produced. This means shortages, which increase prices, he said. The gap between prices and wages widens. Jiménez also urged workers to play a greater role in developing realistic production plans with factory administrations.

Jiménez and García linked overcoming production problems to the current discussions of what is called Economic Plan '86. Workers, farmers, technicians, and admin-

istrators are working out production goals and productivity norms for this year in conjunction with the government.

Víctor Tirado, a member of the National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, also spoke on productivity in a visit to the Texnica textile plant here a few days following the announcement of the new economic measures. He encouraged the workers to maximize production and suggested they engage in fraternal competition with other plants.

At the same time he stressed that Texnica workers should not see their role only from the technical standpoint of raising production, but also from an overall political standpoint. Workers need to have an integrated view of the particular situation in their own plant, the national economic picture, and national and international politics, he explained. These questions should not be left up to the state. All workers should strive to increase their own political consciousness and that of fellow workers.

"The easiest thing is to just ask the state [to do everything]," he said. "On the contrary, raising one's consciousness to a higher level, that's making revolution."

— C.J.

Hormel meatpackers' strike shows way forward for labor

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ
AND MALIK MIAH

For nine months meatpackers in Austin, Minnesota, have been fighting a determined battle against the giant George A. Hormel & Co.

The strikers are fighting for dignity and safety on the job — and to defend their union.

They face the rich owners of Hormel — one of the Fortune 500 companies — who refuse to negotiate with them.

They are up against the company's goons, union-busting lawyers, and scabs who are backed up by the cops, courts, National Guard, and state government.

In the course of this struggle, the meatpackers of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9 have won broad support from other unionists throughout the country, and from working farmers, students, and other progressive-minded individuals. Close to 6,000 of these supporters came to Austin April 12 to demonstrate their support for the struggle against Hormel.

This strike has become a cause for working people — who are tired of takebacks. P-9's battle is seen more and more as drawing a line against employer and government attacks.

Union officialdom

Yet this struggle isn't backed by everyone in the labor movement. The top officialdom of the strikers' union, the UFCW, as well as the officialdom of almost every other major international union and the national AFL-CIO, have joined together to criticize the strike's leaders and the way they are leading this fight. These officials are putting obstacles in the path of union members who want to actively back P-9 and to organize others to do the same.

Instead of focusing their fire on Hormel and uniting behind P-9 to fight the common enemy, these labor officials have targeted P-9 for attack.

In March the UFCW International Executive Committee revoked the strike sanction and eliminated strike benefits (except for "post strike" benefits for those agreeing to cross the picket line).

In April the UFCW IEC began the process of trying to put the striking local into trusteeship (receivership). Under trusteeship, the local's elected leaders can be replaced by a trustee appointed by top officials of the International. If the local is put into trusteeship, the officials have already publicly announced they plan to reorganize the local based on the scabs currently working in the plant. They will then negotiate a new contract for them. Hormel's management has welcomed this plan.

William Winpisinger, president of the International Association of Machinists,

has written letters to IAM locals endorsing the UFCW officials' attacks on the striking local. Nonetheless, many IAM members are actively backing P-9. The top officers of the United Auto Workers also tried to block support from auto workers' locals but were forced to back down when locals around the country ignored their instructions.

These assaults on P-9 only serve the interests of Hormel and the enemies of the labor movement. What, then, drives the UFCW top leadership and the officialdom of other unions to attempt to crush this strike?

It is that the P-9 strike is qualitatively different from any other labor battle in decades.

Strikers say 'Enough!'

It is a fight over the right of the membership to organize a strike that can win today. Through this fight the members of Local P-9 have learned that their union and all other unions in this country have become hollow shells. They are no longer the fighting tools they must be in order to defend the interests of union members, the entire working class, and their allies — working farmers, Blacks, Latinos, women, and youth.

It has been through the battle for a contract that the members of P-9 have come to recognize that the traditional policy of the top officialdom is not an adequate strategy to win the meatpackers' strike. The officials tie the well-being of the membership to the employers' profitability. This has led to subordinating labor's interests to peaceful coexistence with the bosses.

Hormel's refusal to negotiate, except on its own terms, has led P-9 to reject the view commonly peddled by labor bureaucrats that the "old" methods of fighting back — militant action and mass struggle — are ineffective. P-9 doesn't believe it is possible, after suffering many years of takebacks at the hands of this profitable company, to work out a "fair" deal with Hormel anymore.

The workers have said "Enough!" They want a decent contract and safe working conditions. They want to decide their own future.

They began organizing themselves to conduct a serious fight. They assumed the support of the UFCW nationally and expected help from the entire labor movement.

They also began, as the battle heated up, to see things differently — to look beyond Austin and to reach out to broader social layers such as working farmers, Indians, Blacks, Chicanos, women, and students.

This approach by the P-9 membership stands in sharp contrast to that of the officialdom. It is a break with business trade unionism. It is a threat to those holding to a policy of cooperating with the boss at the expense of working people. It challenges

the notion that unions are run by officials on behalf of the membership.

The decision to do everything possible to organize their strike so as to win — using class-struggle methods — placed P-9 in a direct clash with the UFCW top leadership. This is why the union bureaucracy sees the P-9 leaders as rebels who must be replaced.

The bureaucratic rule by the UFCW officialdom, as in all major unions today, is a product of decades of class collaboration. This is why the fighting power of the UFCW and other unions has been sapped in the face of the concerted antilabor drive of the bosses and their government.

Rise of CIO

The labor movement was not always in the miserable shape it is today.

In the 1930s the movement was radically changed with the rise of the CIO (Congress of Industrial Organizations) when industrial unions in previously unorganized sectors such as auto, steel, and rubber were formed. It marked a giant step forward for the entire working class.

Following a period of economic crisis and savage blows and defeats suffered by the working class, between 1934 and 1937 the labor movement was reshaped by a broad social and political movement. It created the CIO — a movement that looked beyond the existing narrow craft-union structures.

It was a movement that fought for the interests of all workers — Black and white; female and male. Most workers at the time, like today, were not in unions. The CIO sought to organize them.

It saw itself as representing the interests of all working people, all those oppressed and exploited by the employers. It didn't limit its outlook to workers only in trade unions.

The CIO was built by the collective power and action of the workers. It gave workers and their allies, particularly working farmers, added confidence and determination to advance their interests.

During the rise of the industrial unions, unlike today, workers' grievances were settled on the shop floor. A union steward would halt production until the grievance was dealt with to the workers' satisfaction.

It took World War II to begin to undermine these gains and significantly weaken the unions as fighting instruments that defend workers on the job and in society.

Roosevelt's antilabor offensive

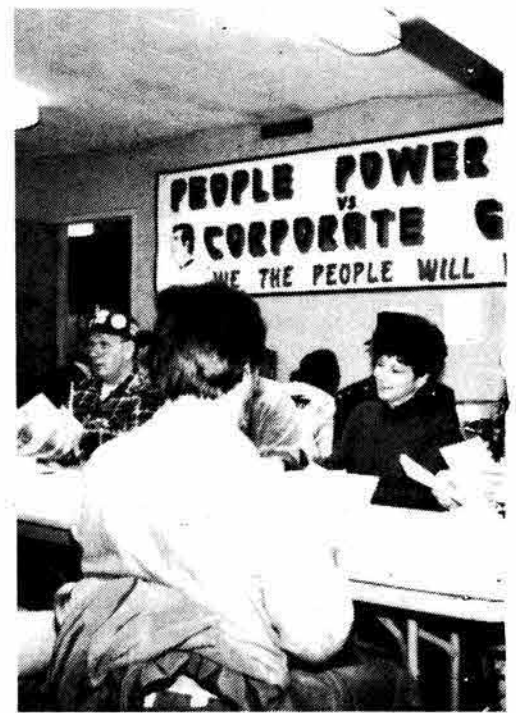
As the U.S. rulers prepared to go to war against their imperialist rivals abroad, they intensified their war against working people at home. President Franklin Roosevelt — considered a "friend of labor" by most union officials — tried to silence opponents of Washington's foreign policy. Those in the labor movement were a special target.

Roosevelt called on labor officials to back the war drive 100 percent, or face victimization.

Democratic rights were sharply attacked. A case in point was the frame-up of 28 people who were leaders of the Teamsters General Drivers Local 544 in Minneapolis and of the Socialist Workers Party. They were charged under the Smith Act, a piece of thought-control legislation, with advocating the overthrow of the U.S. government by force and violence. Eighteen were convicted and served 12 to 18 months in prison during the war.

Roosevelt sent FBI agents into the unions to get "subversives." They functioned as agents provocateurs and spies. Their aim was to frame up antiwar unionists and other opponents of Washington's war policies.

The AFL (American Federation of Labor) and CIO officialdoms joined in these attacks on democratic and trade union rights. Teamsters President Daniel Tobin openly aided the government in its drive to smash Local 544 and replace its democratically elected leadership.



"War Room" (left) at United Food and Cor lists from 40 states to Austin, Minnesota.

The labor officialdom signed a no-strike pledge during the war.

The government took this cowering policy of the bureaucracy as a green light to step up its antilabor policies. Workers who dared to fight back were victimized. For example, in June 1941 Roosevelt sent troops against picket lines at the North American Aviation plant in California, seizing the plant as part of a "national emergency."

There were only two major breaks in the bureaucracy's subordination to the employers' antilabor policies. The first came in 1941 with the March on Washington Movement to end racist military hiring practices and discrimination within the armed forces.

Although the march itself was canceled after Roosevelt announced the token Fair Employment Practices Committee, the fact that it was called at all stood in sharp contrast to the union bureaucracy's general course of retreat and capitulation.

The other break with class collaboration and retreat was the 1943 strike by the United Mine Workers of America. That strike, which lasted from May through October, broke the employers' wartime wage freeze and the unions' no-strike pledge.

These mass struggles led by Blacks and unionists prepared the ground for the 1945-47 labor upsurge.

The postwar strike wave, however, ended in a stalemate. The bosses were unable to smash the unions; but the unions were unable to make new strides forward.

Postwar capitalist expansion

The U.S. rulers came out of the war as the strongest economic, political, and military power in the world. This opened a quarter century of capitalist economic expansion during which broad layers of U.S. working people were able to wrest significant wage and benefit concessions from the bosses.

That quarter century, however, was also marked by the institutionalization of the class-collaborationist methods of the union bureaucracy, and a political retreat by the labor movement. This reality was hidden from most workers by the genuine economic gains, which the bureaucracy erroneously attributed to its statesmanlike policies. These policies assumed the permanence of the private profit system in the United States. They assumed that the way forward for labor is reliance on the government and the capitalist parties.

At the same time, imperialist domination of Latin America, Asia, and Africa was weakened by the war. The masses of colonial people, especially in Asia and Africa, rose up in revolutionary democratic struggles to win national independence.

It was in this context that Washington launched the "cold war" against the Soviet Union and its allies and initiated an anti-communist witch-hunt at home.

The witch-hunt was aimed primarily at destroying the unity and combativity of the industrial unions born in the 1930s upsurge. It sought to turn back the gains won by working people and to sow fear, division, and demoralization among those fighting for social progress.

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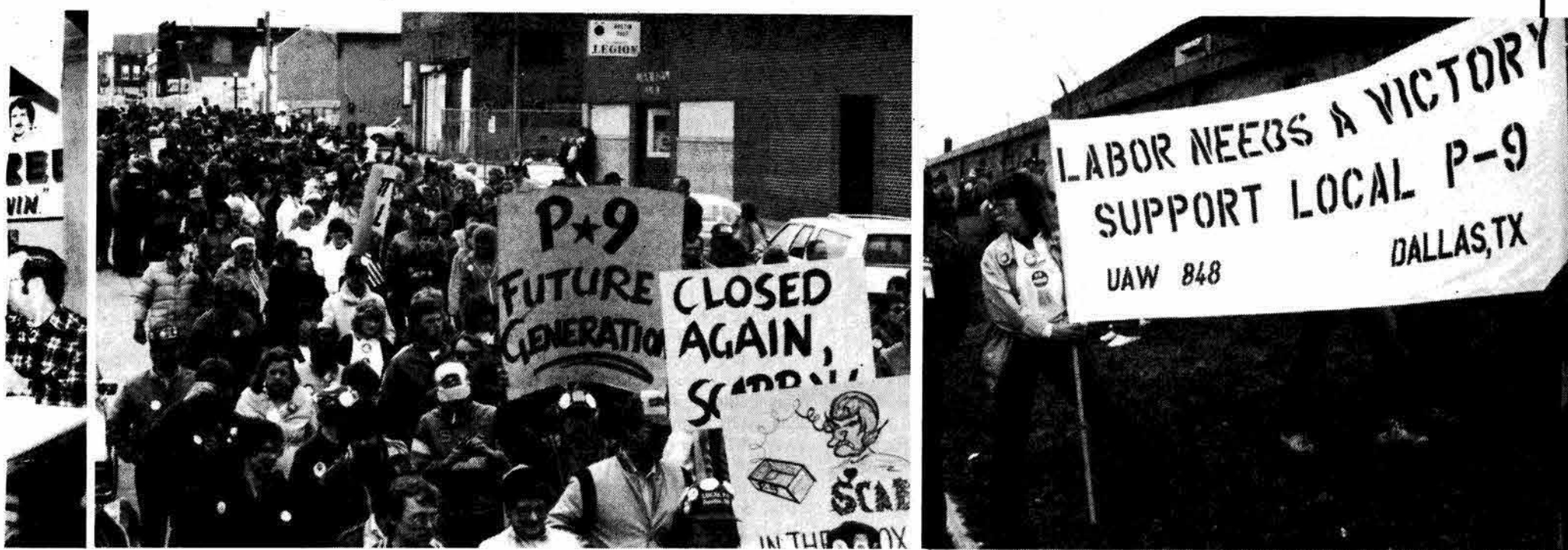
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Commercial Workers Local P-9's headquarters. Union offices are beehive of activity to organize strike and solidarity. April 12 march and rally of 6,000 (center and right) brought union-
is type of solidarity is key to winning strike.

Militant photos by Paco Sánchez and Tom Jaax

The witch-hunt was used to maintain and extend "labor peace." It was used to assure the political passivity the bosses needed to intensify exploitation in order to accumulate greater wealth.

The labor bureaucracy was a willing partner with the bosses and the government in the witch-hunt. They used it to go after socialists and progressive-minded workers who opposed their jingoist, anticommunist, and antidemocratic policies.

The bureaucracy sought to convince unionized workers — particularly the relatively better off layer — that it was in their interest to support these reactionary policies, or "trade-offs" as the labor officialdom called them.

And trade off the bureaucracy did. It traded away use of union power to organize the unorganized, especially in the South. It refused to throw the unions into the civil rights movement's fight against Jim Crow segregation directed against Blacks. And the bureaucracy backed Washington's aggression around the world, particularly its wars against the Korean and Vietnamese people in the 1950s and 1960s. It accepted "fringe benefits" tied to the company's profits, instead of fighting for national health care and retirement plans benefiting all working people.

Throughout this period, union control over job conditions, line speed, and safety was increasingly being relinquished.

Antilabor laws

This institutionalization of bureaucratic rule in the unions with subordination of labor's interests to the needs of big business was best seen in how the top officialdom responded to a series of antilabor laws adopted by Congress after World War II.

Congress passed the Taft-Hartley Act in 1947, which empowered the president to invoke injunctions against strikes and prohibited strikes by federal government employees. This nefarious antilabor bill sought to dictate to the workers who they could elect as their leaders, requiring officers of local, national, and international unions to file an affidavit swearing they were not members of the Communist Party and did not support any organization advocating overthrow of the government by force or any "unconstitutional" means. (Later this anticommunist clause was ruled invalid.)

Although the top trade union officials opposed this law, the bosses knew they wouldn't mobilize the membership to fight it.

Within two years every major union except the Mine Workers and the International Typographical Union capitulated to what came to be known in the labor movement as the "slave labor" law.

This body blow to union rights accelerated government interference in the labor movement.

By 1957 the AFL-CIO was openly backing attacks that undermined the rights of union members.

Under the guise of fighting "corruption" in the union movement, Sen. John McClellan's Select Committee on Improper Activities in the Labor and Management Field opened fire on the top officials of the Teamsters union.

The labor officialdom refused to repudiate the government's attack on the Teamsters and in 1957, the AFL-CIO's Executive Council expelled the Teamsters, as well as the Bakery Workers and Laundry Workers, from the federation on the charge of "corruption."

This put wind in the sails of the employers. In 1959 the Landrum-Griffin Act was passed. This law provided for government supervision over the election of union officers, stewards, and other posts. Dissident members were encouraged to sue unions and their officers in the capitalist courts. The legislation also gave the government the authority to investigate the internal affairs of unions.

By the early 1970s, with capitalist economic expansion coming to an end, the unions had been significantly weakened by the business-union policies of these labor "statesmen."

Twenty-five years of "cold war" reaction and the relative prosperity of the post-World War II years led to the institutionalization of the "what's good for the boss is good for the workers" policy of the top officialdom, and to the demobilization of the ranks. The militancy of the CIO generation was sapped and the younger ranks were quiescent.

Union membership declined. In 1955, when the AFL and the CIO merged, 35 percent of the working class was in unions. Today, it is less than 19 percent — and declining.

Takeback decade

This was the context in which the labor movement entered the 1970s to face what has become more than 10 years of takeback demands by the employers.

With the 1974-75 recession the employers began to demand what are euphemistically called "concession contracts." This and subsequent recessions exposed how weak the labor movement had become.

The first takebacks were aimed at municipal workers in cities such as New York. The union tops yelled but did not organize a fightback.

The antilabor drive accelerated in the 1980s with direct attacks on industrial workers, including those in steel and auto.

But the most brutal example of the employers' determination to reshape the relationship between employers and workers occurred in 1981. The Reagan administration busted the air traffic controllers' union — PATCO. This included blacklisting its members from ever working in air traffic again.

Outside of paying some lip service to solidarity, the AFL-CIO officialdom did absolutely nothing to defend these workers.

Today many workers say the defeat of PATCO and the AFL-CIO's default opened their eyes to the weaknesses of the labor movement and the need for some fundamental changes.

The AFL-CIO officials are adjusting their business-as-usual policy — not to protect the workers, but to protect their own high salaries and well-to-do life styles. They are on a course of deepening their collaboration with the bosses and making the unions even less effective

weapons in the fight against the employers.

This adjustment is best codified in the 1985 AFL-CIO Executive Council document, "The Changing Situation of Workers and Their Unions."

The document's framework is the traditional AFL-CIO policy. It explicitly rejects mobilizing the ranks in a serious fight against the employers' offensive. "Confrontation and conflict," the report states, "are wasteful. . . . A cooperative approach to solving . . . problems is desirable."

This "cooperative approach" in real life does not rely on the members to win a decent contract; rather it seeks deals with the employers that supposedly benefit both bosses and workers.

Instead of real wage and benefit gains, many new contracts give workers lump-sum "bonuses," or company stock, or place top union officials on the company board of directors. These schemes are sugar-frosted wage cuts.

The AFL-CIO document does not call for a serious campaign to organize the unorganized in order to reverse the decline in union membership. Instead it proposes a new approach — associate membership for those workers on long-term layoffs and those in plants where union organizing drives have failed.

Other innovations include a proposal that unions provide "services and benefits to workers outside the collective bargaining structure . . . on a cost effective basis."

The proposal is for unions to become businesses that sell "fringe benefits" — from low interest credit cards to health insurance — instead of being fighting organizations of workers that defend the rights of all working people.

The document codifies the long-standing relationship between the officialdom and the membership. It says, for instance, that the members provide "advice" to the leadership who make policy.

To these bureaucrats, workers are only the objects — not the makers — of policy.

Minnesota meatpackers' fight

In contrast to this business unionism stands the practice of Local P-9, which bases its struggle on the membership and its creative, collective, self-reliant, and democratic action.

P-9's membership decides policy.

Local P-9 President Jim Guyette's simple statement that the membership started the strike and only the membership will end it sends shivers down the backs of the officialdom.

This is the reason the bosses and the bureaucrats are determined to smash the strike even if it means establishing a company union and signing a sweetheart contract.

History of local's fight

The fact that P-9 is the local that is leading such an important strike is not completely accidental. The conditions under which these workers have toiled for many years are what forced them to reconsider the traditional policies of the labor movement and carry forward the fight in the determined way that they have.

In 1933 the parents and grandparents of many of the current P-9 members were in-

volved in a sitdown strike at the Austin Hormel plant. It was part of a broader fight to organize a meatpacking industry well known for its poor safety record and low wages.

In 1940 the union negotiated a far-reaching contract that included a guaranteed annual wage based on a 36-hour week. The annual wage was coupled with guaranteed work for 52 weeks a year. If the company was planning a layoff, it was required to notify workers one year in advance. The workers controlled the speed of the line, and job assignments were made in consultation with the union.

According to Glenn Dawson, who spent 33 years at Hormel, "All squabbles between us and management were settled right on the shop floor. You could go straight to the plant manager with your grievance and he would get rid of it then and there. We never had to write up a grievance."

But in the early 1960s this began to change. The Hormel bosses began to demand takebacks from this 1940 contract. In fact the company forced concessions on P-9 in 16 out of the last 22 years. These included loss of job control, most notably over the speed of the line.

Hormel began to press for even bigger concessions in 1978. Threatening to close the plant, the company forced the workers to put their incentive pay into escrow to provide Hormel with a \$20 million loan to build a new plant in Austin. The loan cost the workers \$12,000 each.

The company also demanded and got a seven-year no-strike contract and a 20 percent speedup in production. In 1981 Hormel forced a wage freeze on the workers. Although all of these concessions were allegedly to guarantee job security, the new plant reduced the work force from 4,000 to 1,500.

Conditions — always bad in the industry — deteriorated steadily in the new plant after it opened in 1982.

The injury rate increased 119 percent in the three years since the new plant opened. Meatpacking has one of the highest injury rates of all industries. In Austin, the injury rate, however, is six times higher than in the industry as a whole.

Workers out sick or on injury are harassed with two to five phone calls a day from the company.

Things got so bad that plant security guards escorted workers to and from doctor appointments.

Workers had to raise their hands to go to the bathroom.

These conditions prevailed when the owners of Hormel arbitrarily slashed wages 23 percent in October 1984. It was only then that Local P-9 found out that contract provisions protecting their wages from reduction, which appeared in a summary of their 1981 agreement, had never been incorporated into the final contract.

The wage cut was the last straw. As P-9 President Jim Guyette explained, "If the newest plant in the industry takes a cut in wages, then the other plants are going to say they can't compete. If concessions are going to stop, then they are going to have to stop at the most profitable company with

Continued on next page

Meatpackers' strike shows way forward

Continued from previous page
the newest plant.

When the contract expired in 1985, Hormel offered to bring wages back up to \$10 an hour — the average in the chain of Hormel plants — but moved to further erode working conditions.

This included gutting the seniority and grievance systems, demanding the right to punish injured workers, demanding a two-tier wage system, eliminating maternity leave, cutting health benefits, and contractually limiting workers' democratic and political rights.

While the wage cut was an issue, it was only one of many. In fact, the issues of health and safety became paramount.

Preparing for the struggle

When the local decided it could not accept more concessions and had to fight back, P-9 turned to the UFCW International leadership for help.

But the local discovered that the entire union had been weakened as a result of years of concessions imposed on it by the meat barons. For example, the UFCW had lost a common contract expiration date for the major plants in the Hormel chain.

Under this disadvantageous situation, the leaders of Local P-9 mapped a fight-back course. From the beginning P-9's strategy was aimed at strengthening the entire UFCW. The members understood they couldn't win without support from within the International, especially its meatpacking locals, as well as from the broader labor movement.

For this reason, the local called for a common expiration date for all Hormel plants as part of its local contract demands.

With their contract expiring before the other Hormel plants, the P-9 leadership began to take steps to involve the members in deciding every step in the battle. They made sure that the members were informed of the real situation. Bulletins were published and posted weekly and sometimes twice a week.

Meetings were organized with the workers, their spouses, and children to discuss the contract.

The members, kept well-informed, were in the best position to make decisions and to act on them.

When the company slashed wages in

1984, the local began to organize spouses into a support group to help educate the Austin community about the attacks on the union.

The workers decided to hire Corporate Campaign, Inc., to organize an educational campaign to expose the company and its main creditor — First Bank, based in Minneapolis.

Like the many other tools the union is using to advance its struggle for a decent contract, the Corporate Campaign is under the direction of the members.

The Hormel workers also reached out to others in struggle. Throughout the Midwest, they joined farm protests and picket lines of other workers in the meatpacking industry. Many of these farmers and workers later returned the solidarity by joining protest rallies in Austin and donating food and other aid.

When Hormel's owners finally forced Local P-9 out on strike, the local began to develop democratic forms to involve all the members in the strike battle. This strengthened the local's fighting capacity.

P-9 set up a kitchen to feed pickets, as well as a food shelf to provide strikers with groceries.

The Tool Box, a program of counseling and referrals, was organized to help strikers and their families cope with the stress of the struggle.

The local established a Communication Committee that organizes strikers and supporters to explain the issues in the strike to other working people and students.

A strike center called the War Room was set up in the union hall to coordinate the various activities of the local.

All these committees are led by strikers. P-9 set up the "Adopt A P-9 Family" program to solicit aid from unions and others for individual families in need.

Strike-support meetings to keep the members and supporters informed of developments in the struggle are also organized daily.

A group of P-9 retirees and a youth-support organization — P-9 Future Generation — were set up.

To help overcome the divisions among workers in the Hormel chain caused by different contract expiration dates, P-9 asked the UFCW national leadership in

November 1985 to sanction roving pickets to other Hormel plants.

All of these actions represented the will of the membership. They were done in the framework of how best to mobilize P-9's membership and their allies in order to win the strike.

National officials attack P-9

Hormel's owners, however, refused to seriously negotiate a decent contract. They demanded capitulation by the strikers.

P-9 responded by fighting harder and seeking to broaden support for the strike. This included pressing the national UFCW leadership to put more heat on the company, which had just reported a record \$38.6 million profit.

The national UFCW gave \$40 a week in strike benefits to P-9 members. The top officials publicly gave the impression that they supported the strike.

In November 1985, UFCW President Wynn said the International Executive Committee would sanction roving pickets to other Hormel plants.

But in January, when UFCW locals at Hormel's plants in Fremont, Nebraska, and Ottumwa, Iowa, voted to request that the UFCW national leadership sanction P-9's roving pickets, Wynn not only refused to do so but publicly attacked P-9's leadership. He said their methods were leading the strike to defeat — "suicide" he called it.

This stab in the back by Wynn on behalf of the UFCW IEC set the stage for Minnesota Gov. Rudy Perpich — widely touted as a Democratic "friend of labor" — to send the National Guard into Austin to herd scabs for Hormel's owners.

But this action only increased the determination of the strikers to fight back. They decided to send roving pickets to other Hormel plants.

More than 500 workers at the Ottumwa plant and 56 workers at the Fremont plant honored the pickets. They were fired by Hormel in violation of the union contract.

The P-9 strikers also called for a national consumer boycott of Hormel products.

Because of the stakes involved in this battle, the UFCW national officialdom decided to increase its public attacks on the local's leadership for its refusal to toe the line and make a deal with Hormel.

This included distributing a 16-page pamphlet titled "UFCW Local P-9 Strikes Hormel: The International Union's Perspective" to union officials across the country.

The most serious attack, however, is the officialdom's decision to place the local in trusteeship so that a deal can be made with Hormel behind the backs of the members.

None of these assaults have yet broken the determination of the nearly 1,000 P-9 members who have remained on strike for nine months. (About 500 have crossed the picket line, most before the strike sanction was lifted by the International officials.)

March vote: turning point

This determination of the membership was best seen in how they responded to the national officials' decision to remove the strike's sanction, including the ending of weekly strike benefits.

On March 12 the local membership, in a close vote, decided to request that top UFCW officers come to Austin to work with them in drawing up a contract proposal to present to Hormel.

Two days later the International Executive Committee, taking this vote to mean that P-9's leaders had lost the support of the local, lifted the strike's sanction and ordered the strikers back to work.

Virtually the entire union membership — whether they had voted for or against the national leaders coming in — were outraged by this bureaucratic move. As far as P-9 members were concerned, their request that the IEC come in was not a decision to end the strike, but a vote to work together to win a new contract.

At a meeting of almost 900 workers on March 16, the local voted overwhelmingly to continue the strike and requested that the IEC restore the strike sanction.

This vote was a clear repudiation of the IEC's heavy-handed attack on the members' right to run their strike.

This move by the IEC and the response of P-9's membership to it were a turning

point in the strike battle. Instead of dividing and demoralizing the workers, the IEC's administrative approach united the strikers even more. Since the strike sanction was removed, few P-9 members have signed Hormel's waiting list to return to work. (The scabs, according to Hormel's management, now have permanent jobs.)

The determination to expand the strike and reach out to the labor movement was evident at solidarity actions organized in Austin in mid-April, in particular the April 12 solidarity rally. The broad participation by unions — representatives came from 40 states — showed the breadth of support for the strike.

The removal of the strike sanction and the trusteeship hearing have not deterred the Austin strikers.

P-9 members know that their fight is against the powerful families who own Hormel — not the UFCW bureaucracy. That's why P-9 workers attended the trusteeship hearing in Minneapolis April 14 to defend their local. They are demanding that Wynn and the UFCW and AFL-CIO officials back the strike. If they refuse to support P-9, however, at least they should stop attacking the strikers in public.

Emulate P-9's example

The task before progressive-minded unionists, farmers, students, and others is to step up support to the striking workers. P-9's example has been inspiring for all working people wanting a victory against the bosses' takebacks.

There is no assurance that P-9 will win. But what they've already done and their decision to take a different course than the longtime business-as-usual policy of the top labor officialdom is an example that can and should be emulated.

It is not simply P-9's tactics or militancy, which have been seen in other recent strike battles, that explains why working people are inspired and are willing to buck their own national union leaderships to back P-9's battle.

Nor is it the various forms and structures utilized in the battle that give the strike special status, though these are important. A variety of forms of organization will arise under different conditions of strike combat.

It is the willingness and capacity of the P-9 membership to stand firm and not capitulate to Hormel's demands — even given the forces arrayed against them, including the state government, cops, courts, and big-business media, as well as, unfortunately, their own national union leadership — that give their struggle its unique character. After the takeback decade working people have been through, a victory by P-9 would inspire many others to follow its example.

The workers in Austin are breathing some life into their union and making it a tool to defend themselves. The leaders don't dictate to the members; the members decide policy.

It is only when unions become fighting instruments that they can effectively defend workers' interests on and off the job. Only when the labor movement is transformed in this way can it once again become a *social movement* fighting for all working people — for union and nonunion workers, unemployed, farmers, Blacks, women, and youth.

It is only then that labor can begin to speak out for the interests of working people on national and international issues, instead of echoing the views and debates of the employers' parties — the Democrats and Republicans.

What's needed now is all-out solidarity by the labor movement and its allies for the P-9 strike.

On May 10 in Ottumwa, Iowa, a support rally is scheduled.

The consumer boycott against Hormel products is gaining support and should be expanded.

Moreover, most of the contracts at Hormel's seven other plants, with the exception of the plants in Ottumwa and Knoxville, Tennessee, come up between May and September.

P-9 can win. Our job is to do what we can as workers, unionists, farmers, students, Blacks, Latinos, Indians, women, and as progressive-minded individuals to help them in their fight.

Do you know someone who reads Spanish?

'PM' condemns attack on Libya

After the U.S. bombing of Libya, a Reagan "senior administration official" said about Libyan leader Muammar el-Qaddafi: "We were showing him that we could get people close to him, and that's why members of his family were hurt during this thing."

Qaddafi's one-year-old daughter was killed in the raid, and two of his sons — three and four years old — were seriously hurt, along with many more children and dozens of civilians.

The U.S. government claims that civilians were not targeted, but Voice of America radio warned the Libyan people that Washington held them "collectively responsible" for their government's actions.

The new issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* tells the truth about Washington's bombing of Libya, and about the world's outrage at this criminal attack on an African nation.

It also has an on-the-spot report from Britain on the mass protests in that country.

Perspectiva Mundial is the Spanish-language socialist magazine that every two weeks brings you the truth about the struggles of working people and the oppressed in the U.S. and around the world.



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Nat'l solidarity with Hormel strikers

Minneapolis

BY MAGGIE McCRAW

AUSTIN, Minn. — On April 17 members of the International Association of Machinists local at Republic Airlines in Minneapolis-St. Paul finally succeeded in donating \$10,000 to the striking meatpackers here. To carry out this simple act of labor solidarity, the Machinists had to overcome the obstacles put in their way by the top officialdom of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union and the Machinists.

Early in March the Machinists local voted to send \$10,000 to striking United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9's Adopt-A-Family program. Following the procedure recommended by the top officials of their union and the strikers' international union, the Machinists mailed their check made out to P-9's Adopt-A-Family Fund to the UFCW International office in Washington, D.C.

The check, however, was returned to the local with a crude letter from UFCW International President William Wynn attacking the Machinists' act of solidarity. The UFCW top officials have ordered P-9 to end the strike and are trying to put the local into receivership. Wynn wrote that the "next time you want to stick it to the UFCW, please don't ask us to bend over and cooperate."

Wynn then told the Machinists to send a check made out to the UFCW. The strikers, however, have pointed out that much of the money sent to the UFCW earmarked for P-9 never reaches them.

On April 17 the Machinists finally found a way to give this money to the strikers. Bob Cruz, president of the local, called a special negotiations meeting. Each union member who attended received \$30 as per diem expenses for being there. Then, in a true show of solidarity, 334 Machinists individually signed their checks over to Local P-9. The Machinists also bought hundreds of dollars worth of "Cram your Spam" T-shirts and "Boycott Hormel" buttons on sale at the meeting.

At the meatpackers' strike support meeting that evening in Austin, P-9 Executive Board member Floyd Lennoch praised the ingenuity and solidarity of the Machinists. He then presented the huge pile of checks to the strikers' Adopt-A-Family program committee.

New Orleans

BY JOHN LINDER

NEW ORLEANS — Two striking Hormel workers spoke to more than 1,000 unionists during a week-long tour here in March.

Two meetings of New Orleans fire fighters heard the striking meatpackers before taking a strike vote of their own. Hundreds of these workers said they had stopped buying Hormel products the minute they heard of the strike.

Members of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-447 at the Chevron plant

are facing big concession demands by that company. Nevertheless, these workers, like the fire fighters, took time to learn about the Hormel strike and donated more than \$300 out of their pockets. The day after the strikers spoke, "Boycott Hormel" stickers were all over the plant. On one bulletin board in big letters was the message "Cram your Spam, Chevron."

The strikers took their cause to 300 people attending a service at the Central Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ. The strikers received from them donations and pledges of support for the Hormel boycott.

The P-9 members also attended the state convention of the AFL-CIO, where they were warmly received by delegates and guests.

Cincinnati

BY M.J. RAHN

CINCINNATI — During a visit here in mid-March, striking Hormel meatpacker Floyd Lennoch was able to speak to several union meetings about the strike. He also held a public meeting at the University of Cincinnati.

Lennoch, a member of UFCW Local P-9's Executive Board, also spoke on two radio programs and held a successful news conference.

As part of his tour, which was sponsored by United Steelworkers Local 14340, Lennoch was able to address a meeting of the Central Labor Council. The council delegates gave him a standing ovation.

As a result of his visit here, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees local at the University of Cincinnati voted to donate to the strikers' Adopt-A-Family program. And the Cincinnati Federation of Teachers voted to support the strike and the Hormel boycott.

San Diego

BY ALLAN GRADY

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Cecil Cain and Jim Krulish, striking Minnesota meatpackers, completed a 10-day tour here April 10. In the course of their visit, the strikers spoke before more than a dozen local union membership and executive board meetings and raised \$6,000.

The Machinists union at a General Dynamics plant donated \$1,000. United Auto Workers Local 506, representing the workers at Teledyne Ryan Aeronautical, also donated \$1,000. The Machinists local at Rohr Industries pledged \$2,000.

Money and support was also received from locals of the ironworkers and carpenters unions, Communications Workers of America, Service Employees International Union, and the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.

Some of the locals had already given money to the strike but gave additional assistance during the tour.

By halfway through their visit the strik-

stance to fight this harassment. The local is asking that contributions be sent to P-9 Legal and Defense Fund, 316 NE 4 Ave., Austin, Minn. 55912.

The local is also asking that letters protesting this harassment be sent to Hubert Humphrey III, Attorney General, 102 Capitol Building, St. Paul, Minn. 55155.

As we go to press, the 507 workers at Hormel's Ottumwa, Iowa, plant who were fired in January for honoring P-9's picket lines won a victory against the company. The State Employment Commission ruled the company had unjustly fired them and therefore these workers are eligible for unemployment benefits.

The decision, which is retroactive to February 23, includes back payments totaling \$2 million. A solidarity rally for the fired Ottumwa workers is set for May 10 at the Ottumwa Park Pavilion.



Militant/Paco Sánchez

Shipyard workers and trade union women at April 12 solidarity rally with Hormel strikers in Austin, Minnesota. Unionists throughout country are inspired by Local P-9's fight.

ers had sold out of strike-support T-shirts and caps. Money from these sales and collections made after local union meetings totaled nearly \$1,500.

The strikers attended the weekly "strike party" of the TWA flight attendants and walked their picket lines.

A particularly inspiring event was the monthly meeting of the Retired Meatcutters Local 229-A. Striker Cecil Cain told the retirees that "we at P-9 are trying to save the union that you struggled so valiantly to build."

Cleveland

BY SUSAN LaMONT

CLEVELAND — More than a hundred people participated in a rally to support striking Minnesota meatpackers here.

The mid-March rally culminated a brief tour by the strikers to the Cleveland area. During their visit here they participated in a collection at the gate to the Chrysler Twinsburg stamping plant, where over \$2,000 was raised. They also spoke to United Steelworkers Local 2265 at the LTV plant in Cleveland and at the Workers' Solidarity Club in Youngstown, Ohio.

The Cleveland rally, which was chaired by Bill Bon, president of the Auto Workers' local at Twinsburg, reflected the support the strikers had been able to win.

The Hormel strike at a glance

The 1,500 members of United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) Local P-9 were forced out on strike by the Geo. A. Hormel meatpacking company on Aug. 17, 1985. They are workers at the company's Austin, Minnesota, operation.

Several months earlier, Hormel had unilaterally slashed wages from \$10.69 to \$8.25 an hour. They were later raised to \$9.25. When the union's contract expired August 17, the company refused to return wages to their former level.

Hormel also demanded additional concessions, including gutting the seniority and grievance systems and instituting a two-tier wage system. The company has demanded the right to punish workers injured on the job. The injury rate per year at the Austin plant is 202 injuries for every 100 workers. Hormel is also demanding contractual restrictions on workers' democratic and political rights.

In the course of the strike, Local P-9 has had to face attacks by the company, courts, and governor.

In January and again in February Minnesota Gov. Rudy Perpich sent in the National Guard to herd scabs for Hormel. On April 11, cops from around the

state rioted against picketing strikers and supporters outside the Hormel plant.

The striking local has sent out roving pickets to other Hormel plants. On January 28 the company fired more than 500 workers at Hormel plants in Ottumwa, Iowa, and Fremont, Nebraska, for refusing to cross P-9's picket lines.

Local P-9 has gone on a campaign to get solidarity for the strike from unionists and others around the country, an effort that has resulted in two national support demonstrations held in Austin. The most recent brought out 6,000 on April 12.

On March 14, the UFCW International Executive Committee revoked its sanction of the strike, ending strike benefits and ordering the strikers to cross the picket line. The strikers have voted overwhelmingly to continue their strike despite the fact that Hormel has 900 scabs working at the plant.

On March 28, the UFCW International officials announced that they were beginning proceedings to put the local into trusteeship. A hearing on the trusteeship was held in mid-April.

Donations and messages of support for the Austin strikers can be sent to: UFCW Local P-9, 316 4th Ave. NE, Austin, Minn. 55912.

Attacks on strikers escalate

Continued from back page

Hormel company," the union said, "would rather crush the union than negotiate with us."

In the week since the latest injunction was handed down, the Austin cops have issued arrest warrants on misdemeanor charges for an additional 25 strikers and supporters. The charges stem from the April 11 cop riot. These individuals have allegedly been identified from videotapes of the attack taken by the cops and Hormel.

The Austin cops are delivering these warrants to people's homes. If an individual has a previous strike-related charge pending, the cops are demanding they post \$500 bond on the spot or be carted off to jail. Union attorneys are challenging the legality of bond being set without court hearings.

Local P-9 is appealing for financial as-

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

End U.S. War Against Libyan People Now! Speaker: Sarah Matthews, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 3, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Eyewitness Report From Nicaragua. Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 17, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Oakland

May Day Picnic. Sun., May 4, 11 a.m. at the Joaquin Miller Park at Pinewood site. Donation: \$5. Ausp: California 1986 Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

San Jose

Labor Fights Back. A panel discussion. Speakers: Ron Stafford, striking cannery worker, Teamsters Local 912 in Watsonville; a representative from United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9, Austin, Minnesota; Mike O'Toole, member International Association of Machinists Local 562. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 3, 7:30 p.m. 46 1/2 Race St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

KENTUCKY

Louisville

Help Launch the Socialist Campaign. Speaker: Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress, 3rd C.D., and member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Sat., May 10, reception at 7 p.m., rally at 8 p.m. 809 E Broadway. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Socialist Workers '86 Campaign. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

What's Behind U.S.-Israeli Warmaking in the Middle East, from Libya to Lebanon? A panel discussion. Sat., May 3, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Hundred Years of Labor Struggles. Film: *If You Don't Come in Sunday, Don't Come in Monday.* Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 3, 8 p.m. 2135 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (313) 961-0395.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

The Crisis in Rural America — What Can Be Done to Defend Working Farmers? Speakers: John Enestvedt, farm activist, participant in the 1930s Farm Holiday movement; John Musick, state director of COACT. Sun., May 4, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Minnesota Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Report from El Salvador. Slide show by Don Gurewitz, attended convention of Salvadoran trade union federation. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 3, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

Jobs, Not War! A Socialist Workers Party Campaign Rally. Speakers: Ruth Nebbia, SWP candidate for mayor of Newark; Chris Brandon, SWP candidate for Congress, 10th C.D., and member of United Auto Workers. Fri., May 9. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; rally, 7:30

p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

James Connolly, His Contribution to Ireland and America. A celebration in song, music, and story by performers of the Irish Arts Center. Sat., May 10, 8 p.m. High School for the Humanities, 351 W 18 St. Donation: \$10, \$5. Ausp: Irish-American Labor Coalition. For more information call (212) 757-3318 or 437-9118.

Eyewitness: Vietnam. Celebration of 11th anniversary of the liberation of Vietnam. Speakers: representative of Vietnamese mission to the United Nations; Merle Ratner, recently returned from two months in Vietnam; representative of Vietnam veterans movement; Don Luce, moderator. Sun., May 18, 7:30 p.m. Casa de las Americas, 104 W 14th St. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Vietnam Anniversary Committee. For more information call (718) 643-0201.

PENNSYLVANIA

Harrisburg

The Pennsylvania March for Women's Lives. Defend Abortion Rights! Sat., May 10, 12 noon. State Capitol. Ausp: Pennsylvania Advocates for Reproductive Health. For more information: Philadelphia (215) 567-6363;

Pittsburgh (412) 731-4453; Harrisburg (717) 234-3024.

Pittsburgh

Eyewitness Report from Nicaragua. Speaker: Clare Fraenzl, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Pennsylvania and member of United Mine Workers Local 1197. Just returned from fact-finding tour of Nicaragua. Sat., May 17, 7:30 p.m. 402 N Highland Ave. Ausp: Socialist Workers 1986 Campaign. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Dallas

International May Day Celebration. Barbecue and program. Sat., May 3, 4:30 p.m. 314 N Winnetka. Donation: \$5. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (214) 943-5195.

UTAH

Price

A Grand Opening for Pathfinder Books. Featuring an eyewitness report on United Food and Commercial Workers union Local P-9 strike against Hormel in Austin, Minnesota. Sat., May 3. Reception, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 23 S Carbon Ave., Room 19. Donation: \$2. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

Salt Lake City

Socialist Campaign Rally. Stop the War

Against Libya, Hands Off Nicaragua! Introducing the socialist candidates for U.S. Senate and Congress. Sat., May 3, 7:30 p.m. Reception, 6:30. 767 S State, 3rd floor. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Socialist Workers '86 campaign. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The U.S. and World Politics Today. Speaker: John Gaige, member Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 10, 7 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$2.

Two classes on U.S. labor by John Gaige. 1. "Lessons of the 1920s and '30s." Sat., May 10, 2 p.m. 2. "Strategy for Labor Today." Sun., May 11, 10 a.m. Translation to Spanish. 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$2 for each class. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance and Pathfinder Books. For more information call (202) 797-7021.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Labor Fights Back: United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 on Strike Against Hormel. Eyewitness report from April 12 national solidarity rally in Austin, Minnesota. A panel discussion, including P-9 members. Sat., May 3, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

Socialist garment, textile workers meet

Continued from Page 5

work together with other union members to carry out an ambitious campaign in solidarity with the embattled UFCW local. This campaign includes urging ACTWU locals to send messages of support and financial contributions to Local P-9, publicizing the boycott of Hormel products, inviting P-9 members to speak at local union meetings, and helping to organize delegations of union members to visit the strike in Austin.

The discussion showed that socialist ACTWU members already had wide experience building solidarity with P-9.

Rich Stuart from ACTWU Local 319-T in High Point, North Carolina, reported strong support for the Hormel strikers in his plant.

Lisa Hickler, a member of ACTWU Local 402-T, spoke about the recent tour of P-9 members in the Portland area, where the ACTWU Joint Board had sent a message of protest to Minnesota Gov. Rudy Perpich demanding withdrawal of the National Guard from Austin. Kate Daher from Local 365 reported on plans for a labor rally in Atlanta in support of P-9.

Estelle DeBates, from ACTWU local 496 in Louisville, Kentucky, told the gathering about circulating a petition in support of the strike in her plant.

A report outlining the tasks and perspectives for socialist ACTWU workers was given by Kate Daher.

Socialist workers in ACTWU around the country have participated in anti-apartheid activities, including circulation of the Freedom Letter to Bishop Desmond Tutu, educational films and slide shows at local meetings, and street demonstrations. They will be helping to build upcoming local and regional actions against U.S. support for apartheid.

Much discussion focused on efforts to build the March 9 and 16 abortion rights

demonstrations in the shops and mills. Participants reported lively discussions about the government and right-wing offensive against women's right to choose abortion and the importance of this fight for the union.

Daher also discussed life under the cotton and wool garment contracts. She described the companies' concerted drive to violate provisions of these contracts "before the ink has even dried." In many areas the promised bonuses were received late or

not at all. Companies across the country are trying to implement speedup, wage cuts, and attacks on seniority rights.

Company propaganda, which is echoed by the top leadership of the union, places the blame for these attacks on garment and textile imports, letting the bosses off the hook.

Daher also explained how local campaigns for Socialist Workers Party candidates for public office can be used to bring socialist ideas to ACTWU members.

Haiti: U.S.-backed junta kills 8

Continued from front page

ment's refusal to prosecute Macoutes, charged that the government had "lost all its credibility."

Washington, which has given military aid and political support to Namphy's government, is increasingly worried that he won't be able to keep the lid on things. The *New York Times* complained in an April 18 editorial that "the present junta has so far failed to prepare for a democratic succession and, increasingly, fails even to govern."

The recent resignations of three cabinet ministers was a further blow to the military-dominated government. The minister of finance resigned following a strike by workers in his department. He said he couldn't cope with an economy ruined after more than 28 years of Duvalier rule.

The minister of public works resigned after an April 7 mass demonstration for jobs. He claimed he was assaulted by demonstrators.

The minister of health resigned because of a strike by doctors, interns, and staff members at the General Hospital in Port-au-Prince. The strikers were protesting in-

adequate facilities; insect and rodent infestation; shortages of medicine, food, and equipment; and poor working conditions.

Increasing repression by the army has failed to stem the mass protest actions that are now common occurrences in Haiti.

On April 3 some 30,000 women marched through Port-au-Prince chanting "Justice, justice, justice!" They were cheered on by men on the sidelines who had been asked by the women not to join the march. The demonstrators held a silent protest in front of the Ministry of Justice and the Casernes Dessalines prison to honor female victims of Duvalier repression.

Other demands raised by the women were for changes in Haiti's civil code to give women equal rights and representation at the constitutional convention, the date of which has not yet been set.

On April 7, some 10,000 people gathered at the Ministry of Public Works when it was reported that 6,000 jobs would be available. Haiti has a 50 percent unemployment rate. A protest ensued when the jobs failed to materialize. Army troops fired on the crowd, wounding dozens.

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Where to find the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and Pathfinder bookstores.

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ARIZONA: Phoenix: SWP, YSA, 3750 West McDowell Road #3. Zip: 85009. Tel: (602) 272-4026.

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VIRGINIA: Tidewater Area (Newport News): SWP, YSA, 5412 Jefferson Ave. Zip: 23605. Tel: (804) 380-0133.

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WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: SWP, YSA, 611A Tennessee. Zip: 25302. Tel: (304) 345-3040. Morgantown: SWP, YSA, 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

WISCONSIN: Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Zip: 53208. Tel: (414) 445-2076.

After a while you lose track — Ferdinand Marcos, the thieving ex-dictator who has millions invested in U.S. real estate, conceded to a reporter that he does



Harry Ring

own two homes in New Jersey, one worth more than \$3 million. "That's about the only property we have in the United States I can

think of," he said.

That convinces us — Military aid to the Nicaraguan contras and the bombing of Libya were warmly endorsed by Tricky Dick Nixon, the chap who brought you the bombing of North Vietnamese dikes and the saturation bombing of Kampuchea.

A real sweatshop — Congressional wages should be upped from the present \$75,100 to \$100,000, says House Speaker Thomas O'Neill, so ordinary folk can afford to serve the country, not just millionaires.

A fella could go broke — In a fit of moral fervor, Edward Koch,

mayor of the scandal-ridden Big Apple, pledged he would return all campaign contributions from those indicted for "ripping off the city." More soberly, he now says he'll redeem that pledge only if his campaign committee raises enough money to do so by the end of his term in office.

Suggestion — Maybe Koch's committee could "borrow" the bread from some of the people he intends to give it back to.

Doubted Great Slavemaster in the Sky? — A team of Southern historians concluded the slavocracy lost the Civil War because it lost faith in God. Ministers began to believe the South was being

punished, "partly because of slavery, partly because of other alleged or assumed sins."

The imagemakers — With muffins now outpacing croissants, the Newbury Muffins chain is hiring clerks with an eye to "grandmotherly" appearance. Meanwhile, the Agriculture Dept. advises: "The new muffin recipes often double the amount of fat and sugar your grandmother might have used."

They'll show grandma — Stricken with a concern for health, Newbury is working on a really nutritious muffin. "It's sugar-free, salt-free and milk-free," a spokesman assures. "Just hot water, bak-

ing powder, and baking soda." Tastewise, he concedes, there's room for improvement.

Can you believe it? — Harvard medical researchers insist a study shows that doctors with big practices, including a fee for each service, order 50 percent more cardiograms and chest X-rays than those with prepayment plans.

That's preposterous — On the basis of a \$300,000 study, researchers say that multimillionaires establish foundations mainly because they want to control the disposition of their money and cut their taxes. Wanting to do good was described as "another motive."

Award-winning film on Argentine military's crimes

Las Madres: The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo. Produced and directed by Susana Muñoz and Lourdes Portillo, 1985. First Run Features. Available in Spanish or English. The film may be ordered through Lourdes Portillo, 981 Esmeralda St., San Francisco, Calif. 94110.

BY SONJA FRANETA

Los desaparecidos — the disappeared, 30,000 Argentine victims of military repression. In the powerful and moving documentary *Las Madres* some of the victims' mothers tell their stories.

From 1976 to 1983, thousands of people in Argentina

FILM REVIEW

were murdered, tortured, and "disappeared" by successive military regimes. The word "disappeared" is used to describe those people who were seized by police and never heard from again.

Imagine the frustration and pain of thousands of mothers who cannot get answers to their questions about the whereabouts of their children, who do not know whether they are dead or alive. One mother lost all three of her children. Most mothers assume they are dead; some have a distant hope that they will once again be united with them.

Impelled by their sorrow and anger, these mothers started a movement. In April 1977 a few women came to the Plaza de Mayo opposite the presidential palace in Buenos Aires. At that time public assembly was illegal. And the Argentine people, especially women, were expected to be silent. Little by little, more women came; the initial few grew to more than 2,000. They wore the names and pictures of their children on signs around their necks and on kerchiefs around their heads.

The women built a movement that brought tremendous pressure on the regime. There were demonstrations of as many as 70,000 people at one time. The film includes excellent footage of these marches. To this day, even under Raul Alfonsín's so-called democratic government, mothers march every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. at the Plaza de Mayo, demanding to know about their children and demanding that the murderers be brought to justice.

"If my daughter was thrown into the sea, I can't accept that the person who threw her in and who is mainly responsible for her disappearance can defend himself by saying he was following orders," says René Epelbaum, mother of two sons and a daughter, all of whom disappeared.

There is a clip of the chief of police of Buenos Aires, General Camps, who justified the military government's actions during the late 1970s by claiming the mothers and their children were "Marxist subversives." There were "25,000 subversives in Argentina," he said, "15,000 of them ideologically fanatized to kill." He said the mothers were continuing the subversive actions begun by their children and responding to an international call by Marxist terrorists.

The traditional human rights groups and the Catholic church hierarchy turned their backs on the mothers. As Hebe Bonafini, one of the leaders of the mothers, says in the film, "The role of the church has been terrible. Of the 86 bishops in the country, only three supported the struggle of the mothers."

One mother explained that Jews were treated even worse than non-Jews by the notoriously anti-Semitic military, and yet the mothers got no help from the rabbinical hierarchy either.

Many of the mothers had become inspired by their children's political views and social concerns. One woman speaks of her son: "All he was arrested for was wanting a more just and humane society."

Las Madres is a joint effort by two San Francisco filmmakers. Susana Muñoz was born in Argentina. She explained in an interview with the Spanish-language magazine *Perspectiva Mundial*, "I have friends who have disappeared, friends who were in jail for many years, and all this affected me." Lourdes Portillo was born in Mexico and has produced a film on Nicaragua called *After the Earthquake*. Both women felt a deep political commitment in making this film about Argentina — and it shows.

Among its other awards, *Las Madres* won three prizes in the December 1985 Latin American Film Festival in Havana, Cuba. The filmmakers met Fidel Castro at the awards presentation. But they were ignored by the Argentine journalists at the festival, and the film has not yet been shown in a public theater in Argentina. It also won an Academy Award nomination for best documentary.

Unlike *The Official Story*, which is a fictional account of the same subject but vague about the source of the terror, *Las Madres* does not hesitate to point to Washington's complicity in the Argentine military's atrocities.

There is a fascinating series of interviews with an ex-Navy pilot, Juan José Cozzi, who was mistakenly tortured by his military friends and later testified against them. He describes some of the tortures they used to get rid of people kidnapped by the military. These included



Scene from *Las Madres* shows mother at Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires carrying picture of kidnapped daughter.

dropping people who were still alive from U.S.-made Douglas DC-3s.

The film also includes quiet moments, such as a father laying flowers at a shrine he made for his child in the basement of his home.

Yet the film ends on a note of hope, because that is what the mothers in their organized numbers represent. *Las Madres* pays tribute to people resisting government terrorism throughout the world, with scenes of women demonstrating in El Salvador, Chile, Peru, Guatemala, Honduras, and Lebanon, and it is dedicated to the mothers of all those who have disappeared.

Nicaraguan government sets higher prices, wages

Continued from Page 7

went up, there was not the sharp inflationary spiral that followed the three wage increases made in 1985.

Then in February the government decided it had to devalue the córdoba by 150 percent. The official exchange rate is now 70 córdobas to U.S.\$1. This is the rate used for purchases of imports, such as all fuel, and for some government transactions. (At the legal exchange houses, the official rate is 900 córdobas to the dollar.) Interest rates were also raised by 100 percent.

Distortions produced by war

A major feature in the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) daily *Barricada* on March 10 explained that the war is the root cause of the country's economic crisis. The government must make enormous investments in defense, but these funds lead to no increased production. More money is printed and put into circulation without a corresponding increase in

production of consumer goods. Shortages continue and prices keep going up.

The January 1 wage increases, combined with the February devaluation of the córdoba, increased production costs, the paper said. The new economic measures bring prices more into harmony with costs of production and are designed to stimulate production.

"In summary," said *Barricada*, "the announced measures are aimed at controlling the economic crisis, favoring the only solution that will guarantee this goal: a greater effort by working people in production, a conscientious effort that will make work a weapon in the struggle against the [U.S.] economic aggression, and the defense of revolutionary power."

Government leaders subsequently elaborated on the economic problems the country faces. Henry Ruíz, a member of the FSLN National Directorate and minister of external cooperation, emphasized the U.S.-backed war as the factor that most

distorts Nicaragua's economy. Defense spending, he said, absorbs 25 percent of the country's gross national product and 50 percent of the government's budget. Forty percent of domestic production goes to military needs. And a full 20 percent of the economically active population — those who could be engaged in productive labor — are in the armed forces.

Nicaragua's annual export income, meanwhile, is only \$350 million, while it has to spend \$900 million on imports of vitally needed machinery, fuel, and medicine, he said.

Farm prices

Dionisio Marengo, minister of planning and the budget, also gave an interview in which he said there was a need to guarantee higher prices to farmers, who not only produce the food needed for domestic consumption, but the crops vital to Nicaragua's export trade.

"Take someone who's producing cof-

fee," said Marengo. "He's only getting 5,000 córdobas for 100 pounds, and he says he can't live on this and quits the business. The next year, what we have is less coffee. And with less coffee, we have fewer dollars. With fewer dollars, we have more problems."

The "strategic way out of this problem," said Marengo, is increasing production.

Sandinistas Speak

Speeches, writings, and interviews by leaders of Nicaragua's revolution, from 1969-1981. 160 pp., \$4.95.

Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution.

Collection contains more than 40 speeches by Sandinista leaders from March 1982 to December 1984. 400 pp., \$7.95.

Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include 75 cents for postage and handling.

Soviet nuclear accident

Continued from front page

The same hypocritical stance is being taken by the other West European governments as well as by Washington. They are using the accident to stir up anti-Soviet sentiment, and at the same time head off criticism of their own use of unsafe nuclear power.

Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told the House of Commons that the accident in the Soviet Union could not possibly have any lessons for the British nuclear industry. "We have very high standards of safety," she asserted.

The facts, however, put the lie to Thatcher's claim. Recent leakages and spillages from British nuclear plants have provoked a furor not seen in decades, both in Britain and in Ireland — which is used as a dumping ground for nuclear waste.

A series of accidents took place last winter at the giant Windscale/Sellafield plant in northern England. These were only the latest in a history of no less than 300 recorded accidents at the plant since 1950.

It was at the Windscale plant that a major nuclear disaster occurred on Oct. 7, 1957. A fire in the reactor spread radioactive material throughout the countryside. The British government has admitted that at least 30 people have subsequently died of cancer as a result.

But it is the U.S. government that takes the cake for its sanctimonious stance.

The U.S. power companies produce the most nuclear-generated electricity of the 26 countries that have nuclear reactors. It is followed by the Soviet Union, France, Japan, and West Germany.

There are 93 nuclear power plants in operation in the United States, 8 more completed and ready to go on line, and 21 plants under construction.

Of the 25 nuclear accidents classified by the *Washington Post* and *New York Times* as major, 16 of these occurred in this country, including the partial meltdown at the Three Mile Island plant in Pennsylvania in March 1979.

As recently as January of this year, one worker was killed and 100 sent to the hospital at the Kerr-McGee nuclear plant in Gore, Oklahoma.

While government officials and nuclear industry spokespersons have rushed to blame "inferior" Soviet technology for the accident in the Ukraine, they have assumed a holier-than-thou posture about the dangers from the U.S. nuclear plants.

For example, government officials claim that, unlike at the Chernobyl station, U.S. nuclear reactors have concrete containment structures that prevent the release of radioactive material in the event of an accident.

The Coalition of Environmental/Safe Energy Organizations pointed out, however, that the U.S. Department of Energy operates five plutonium-manufacturing plants that do not have containment structures. Plutonium-manufacturing plants produce the highest levels and deadliest type of radiation.

Nor is a containment building a guarantee of safety. The disaster at Three Mile Island proved that. When radioactive water in the containment building reached the level of a sump pump, the pump automatically started pumping the water into another building, which was neither watertight nor vapor tight.

The coalition said that the accident in the Soviet Union proves that nuclear plants in this country and throughout the world should be shut down. "As long as there are operating nuclear power plants in the United States, we live with the risk of a similar accident here," a spokesperson for the group said.

There is simply no known way to make nuclear power safe. It is inherently dangerous because it produces massive amounts of radiation. All radiation, even the small amounts that appear in nature, is harmful. And the huge amounts produced in the generation of nuclear power are extremely harmful — potentially catastrophic.

The processes involved in the production of nuclear power involve insurmountable dangers and make serious accidents a virtual certainty. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission — the government agency set up to monitor the safety of nuclear facilities — itself testified that the chances of another accident as serious as or more serious than the one at Three Mile Island were "50-50."

At Three Mile Island, a partial meltdown of nuclear fuel took place, dumping 400,000 gallons of radioactive water into the Susquehanna River. Radioactive steam was vented several times, driving radiation readings to dangerous levels.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), after attempting to hide the fact, was forced to reveal that the Three Mile Island plant came within one hour of a catastrophic meltdown!

In a complete meltdown, the fuel would melt into a mass that cannot be contained. It would keep on generating its own heat and burn itself right through the reactor walls and the containment building. This is what is called the "China Syndrome." The burning fuel would eventually hit water in the ground that would result in an explosion of extreme force blowing the highly radioactive material from the core into the atmosphere and water supply.

According to a U.S. government study — suppressed for eight years until it became public after the Atomic Energy Commission was sued under the Freedom of Information Act — such an accident could kill 45,000 people quickly and spread radiation at least bad enough to ruin crops over an area the size of Pennsylvania. The longer-term results — cancer, genetic defects, and contamination of water and land — are incalculable.

Many U.S. commentators on the Chernobyl accident have claimed that one of the big differences between the Soviet and U.S. nuclear systems is that the U.S. does not build nuclear power plants in major population centers. This is a lie.

At least 140,000 people lived within the immediate 10-mile radius of the Three Mile Island plant and hundreds of thousands in central Pennsylvania.

U.S. government officials have criticized the Soviet government for not providing all the facts about the incident immediately. But Washington holds the world record for cover-ups. Almost at the very moment that President James Carter was "reassuring" people who lived near the Three Mile Island plant that it was "quite safe for all concerned," his appointees at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission were coolly discussing the still-real possibility of a core meltdown or disastrous hydrogen explosion.

Aware of this danger, the NRC nevertheless refused to order an evacuation of the area, despite repeated urging from one of its own top experts. The government issued flat-out lies minimizing the dangers of the radiation. It was also revealed that the NRC had ignored a series of accidents that preceded the March 28 disaster.

Seven years after the accident — and four years after the company pleaded guilty or no contest to criminal charges that it falsified tests — the government's NRC has taken no action against the company. The full extent of the radioactivity released and the damage done has not been made public to this day.

And this is just one of dozens of cover-ups. The U.S. big-business media is on a campaign to try to convince us that there are two kinds of nuclear power: safe nukes in the United States and the rest of the capitalist world; and dangerous nukes in the Soviet Union.

The purpose of this campaign is transparent. It is aimed at deflecting renewed demands in the United States to shut down all nuclear facilities immediately. Plans for widespread use of nuclear power in the United States have already been dealt some blows. Fifteen years ago, the government and nuclear industry were projecting as many as a thousand major nuclear power plants in the United States by the end of the century.

For a number of reasons, including massive cost overruns and growing public awareness and protests against the dangers, those projections have been sharply reduced.

Today, there are less than 100 plants operating and plans for less than 30 more. Over 100 plants have been canceled and no new plant has been ordered in nearly a decade.

Protests following the accident at Three Mile Island, which included significant support from the United Mine Workers of America, the United Steelworkers of America, and other unions, helped slow down the expansion of nuclear power. But the nuclear industry continues to push ahead with new plants — despite the ever-present danger of nuclear disaster.

Even if no accidents ever occur in a nuclear plant, there is currently no method of safely disposing of the mounting tonnage of nuclear waste.

Nuclear power cannot be made safe, at least not at the present level of human knowledge. There is, however, a readily available, safe, and abundant source of energy that could more than compensate for the power generated by nuclear plants: coal.

Techniques already exist and are in use in some places around the world to remove the worst pollutants from coal emissions. The energy corporations in this country resist using them because they would cut into profits. Coal does not involve the problem of disposal of radioactive waste. Unlike nuclear power, energy-production through the use of coal does not involve insurmountable dangers. Coal can be made safe.

And increased use of coal, mined safely and burned cleanly, could put a lot of unemployed coal miners back to work.

There is only one way to protect people from catastrophic nuclear accidents, from the cancer and genetic damage caused by nuclear power, and from the growing accumulation of deadly radioactive waste that cannot be stored safely.

That is to shut down all nuclear power plants immediately. Humanity simply can't afford not to.

How workers will regain control of their unions

The following are excerpts from the "Afterword" of the book *Teamster Bureaucracy* by Farrell Dobbs.

Teamster Bureaucracy is the last in a four-volume series on the 1930s Minneapolis labor upsurge which Dobbs helped lead. This volume traces the decline of that upsurge with the beginning of World War II.

The other three volumes are: *Teamster Rebellion*, *Teamster Power*, and *Teamster Politics*.

All four volumes are available from Pathfinder Press (see ad page 8).

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The misleaders [of the labor movement] were able to prevent the labor upsurge from going beyond the unionization of the unorganized mass production workers into

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

the CIO, although much more was possible at the height of its energies. They managed to tie the new industrial union movement to the Democratic Party, beginning with the 1936 national elections, thereby keeping the workers mired in capitalist politics. By mid-1937, class-collaborationist norms were reestablished to a large extent in setting trade union policy. Reliance on help from the [President Franklin] Roosevelt administration was substituted for use of the union's full power, and a staggering setback resulted for the CIO with the defeat of the Little Steel strike.

In that changed situation the bureaucrats took one step after another toward restriction of the democratic and fighting spirit in which the CIO was born. Consolidation of their control over the organization proceeded at the same time that dictatorial rule was being reimposed within the AFL. Bit by bit, such rank-and-file democracy as had been established during the upsurge was undermined.

Roosevelt took advantage of the opportunity provided by these developments to implement the imperialists' key objective at the time. He lined up the labor bureaucracy in support of preparations for war, and, as a necessary corollary, he launched a witch-hunt against militants who resisted his foreign policy. This was made all the easier for him by labor's previous failure to take the independent political road, which left the capitalists in unchallenged control of the government. He had a free hand to use a wide range of repressive devices, including assignment of the FBI to a primary role as political police.

From then on the workers collectively have paid a heavy price for the class-collaborationist policies imposed upon the trade unions by the bureaucracy's betrayal. Included in the cost were U.S. entry into World War II and subsequent wars in Korea and Vietnam.

Inflation and unemployment have reduced living standards, eroded job security, and thrust many into poverty. Oppressed nationalities, especially, have suffered from deprivation of their economic, social, and democratic rights. Women continue to face discrimination on every level. The masses generally have experienced attacks on their civil liberties.

So far as officials in the upper strata of the union bureaucracy are concerned personally, capitalism works fine. Huge salaries, expense accounts, and other emoluments enable them to maintain high living standards.

But there is one catch in this otherwise ideal situation for the labor skates. An illusion must be maintained that they are effectively representing the workers in collective bargaining.

But new trends are developing that will undermine their control over the workers' movement. U.S. imperialism is falling into increasing difficulties at the center of the developing world capitalist crisis. Under these circumstances the labor bureaucracy's class-collaborationist practices will have less and less success in obtaining collective-bargaining concessions from the employers.

As these trends persist and worsen, the workers are bound to become more combative, more disenchanted with official union policy, more rebellious. The top bureaucrats, whose domination over the unions will thus become threatened, are certain to react viciously.

As things get worse under the present officers, broadening layers of the membership will become more open-minded toward new ideas and methods of action. Awareness will grow that organized labor is on the wrong track programmatically. Pressures will mount for a major shift in line.

Then, as significant forces are set into motion . . . rank-and-file militancy rises. Increasingly sharp clashes with the bosses result, during which the workers begin to shed class-collaborationist illusions and acquire class-struggle concepts. In short, a foundation is laid from which to initiate transformation of the trade unions themselves into instruments capable of developing far-reaching revolutionary perspectives.

Utah workers: aid Nicaragua unions, not 'contras'

BY SCOTT BREEN

In the congressional debate over funding the U.S.-organized counterrevolutionary army attacking Nicaragua, both Republican and Democratic politicians agree that Nicaragua's Sandinista government is their enemy.

But many U.S. workers would rather Washington give aid to Nicaragua to build schools, hospitals, and child-care centers than give the *contra* army money and

UNION TALK

weapons to destroy schools, hospitals, and child-care centers.

For example, in an act of solidarity with Nicaraguan workers, union brothers and sisters from the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers at a Salt Lake City Amoco oil refinery where I work made \$500 worth of contributions for safety equipment — including respirators, gloves, welding masks, hardhats, and safety glasses — to the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST), the largest union federation in Nicaragua.

The CST organizes the oil workers at Nicaragua's only oil refinery, which is half owned by Esso (Exxon) and half by the Nicaraguan government. Last year, the CST sent out a letter to unions around the world, appealing for safety equipment in order to reduce on-the-job injuries. The letter explained:

"With the triumph of July 19, 1979, we discovered in the companies' statistics that 70 percent of the workers suffered from eye irritations, lung inflammations, bodily injuries, etc. By 1982, the revolutionary government had lowered the rate of job-related illnesses to 50 percent, but has not been able to go any further, since the constant attacks and blockades by imperialism have stopped us from acquiring more equipment."

The letter included a list of 46 items of safety equipment workers need in order to meet CST plans to reduce injuries by 15 percent.

I received a copy of this letter two weeks before I was going to visit Nicaragua on a week-long tour last December. I decided to pitch in on the campaign. I showed the letter to about a dozen of my co-workers and explained that I was collecting money to purchase some of the listed equipment. Eight of us contributed a total of \$70. One coworker even mailed me her check for \$10 when I missed her at work. Some made donations because they didn't approve of the U.S. government's policy of aggression toward Nicaragua. Others gave because

they understood the importance of safe working conditions for workers everywhere.

In addition to my immediate coworkers, other oil workers, six members of the International Association of Machinists, and a steelworker also donated.

When I arrived in Nicaragua I was able to personally deliver this safety equipment to the CST Director of International Relations, Denis Meléndez.

We talked for a couple of hours about the union movement in Nicaragua. He explained the tremendous gains the unions have made under the revolutionary government: unionization has increased from 6 percent to 80 percent of the work force; in the first year of their revolution alone, more contracts were signed with employers than the total number in the previous 20 years.

Legislation has been passed benefiting the unions, such as laws that no worker can be fired for union activity, that no negotiated contract benefit can be conceded back to the employer, and that there be equal pay for equal work.

Meléndez explained how the unions today participate in all aspects of society, including drawing up the new laws and labor codes and helping shape the new constitution. "The CST," he pointed out, "is concerned with everything affecting workers, from coffee breaks to defense."

When I returned to the United States and went back to work, I made up a photo album with notecards explaining the meaning of each photo and the gains of working people in Nicaragua under its workers' and farmers' government. I showed it around at work. One mechanic, after reading through the album, said, "I can't see where Nicaragua's a threat to America." To those who helped contribute to the CST's safety campaign, I brought back souvenirs. When other workers found out what I'd done, they expressed interest in helping in the future. Aid to the CST is more popular than aid to the *contras* where I work.

The CST's safety campaign is an ongoing one. After hearing about my experiences, a member of the Communications Workers of America took \$400 in safety equipment with her on a trip to Nicaragua and presented it to the Telecommunications Workers union in the northern city of Estelí. Another Salt Lake refinery operator, who went down to help pick cotton with a work brigade for two weeks in February, raised \$150 from her coworkers to help buy safety equipment.

In addition to the appeal for safety equipment, the CST has also issued an appeal for financial aid to offset the de-



Militant/Nelson Blackstock
Scott Breen (right) delivering industrial safety equipment to Denis Meléndez, director of international relations of the Sandinista Workers Federation.

struction caused by the U.S.-sponsored *contra* war. A fund, called the Nicaragua Solidarity Fund, has been established through which unions can contribute to the CST. For more information on this fund and the CST appeal for safety equipment, contact: Nita Brueggeman, c/o ACTWU, 975 SE Sandy Blvd., Room 108, Portland, Ore. 97214.

Scott Breen is a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 2-286 and is the Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in Utah's 2nd Congressional District.

LETTERS

Libya protest

On March 28 a noon-time picket at the Federal Building here opposed U.S. government war moves against Libya and protested apartheid in South Africa and Washington's aid to the Nicaraguan *contras*. The picket was called by the All-African People's Revolutionary Party.

The April 1 issue of the *Cincinnati Enquirer* ran the results of a local poll on Libya. Of the 350 people who answered the poll, 52 percent opposed the U.S. government's bombing of Libya. "Mr. Reagan will not be satisfied until he has United States troops somewhere. Take your pick of the locations: Libya or Nicaragua. If these two fail there is Afghanistan," wrote one respondent.

M.J. Rahn
Cincinnati, Ohio

Too much going on

There's just too much going on from Nicaragua to Libya to South Africa to the Philippines, for starters, to rely on the capitalist press for information.

I admire the in-depth coverage the *Militant* provides of domestic and international news. But, if I may be allowed a minor criticism, I'd like to see more news about development problems in the socialist world. For example about daycare or education in Mozambique, health care in Laos or Kampuchea, industrial growth in Yugoslavia or Hungary, or anything about Mongolia and Albania. Otherwise, keep up the excellent work.

Your paper is an invaluable tool for combating the lies of the big-business media.

Matt Tuoni
Tempe, Arizona



Jeff Danziger

Utilities' arrogance

We hold title to a piece of land on which the Kentucky Utilities Co. installed a large-scale electric transmission line. We have been involved in a running war of words with KU ever since we first "purchased" the property.

A combination of abuse and arrogant behavior, coinciding with the total one-sidedness of the right-of-way contract, forced us to make a stand. At any rate we were served with a summons and it looks as if we are headed for a showdown. We are holding out for

a new contract. The old one is totally inadequate from the landowner's point of view. We don't expect much assistance from the courts in the correction of this matter.

We plan on fighting this encroachment on our property rights to the extent of going to jail if it will help.

We have appreciated your coverage of the working man's fight in the past and this is why we took time to appeal to you.
Eddie Meredith
Caneyville, Kentucky

Drug tests

Regarding your editorial, "Sweeping New Drug Test Proposals" — thanks for articulating the grave danger in this government of big-business invasion of our most precious property.

As a federal prisoner I've been confined to the "hole" (solitary lock-down and/or "dry-cell") on three different occasions for resisting forced urinalysis and strip or cavity searches. The pretext that the government uses to dehumanize us is that they're looking for drugs in prisoners.

In reality these searches and seizures of our bodies condition us to relinquish our most basic rights to human dignity. And the double-edged sword is that precious resources used to fund these witch-hunts rob bread from the poor.

A prisoner
Alderson, West Virginia

Philippines

Odette Taverna was quoted in Janice Prescott's article (April 11 *Militant*) to the effect that the left's abstention during the recent Philippine elections and the aftermath of those elections "had disoriented and marginalized" the left. This assertion is a ball of wax fast melting and is part of a concerted effort to malign the left in the Philippines.

Like previous elections in the Philippines under Ferdinand Marcos' U.S.-backed rule, the February 7 exercise was but a charade and a sop to liberal pretensions, even with Cory Aquino running. Certainly in retrospect there may have been a flaw in the left's pre-election analysis calling for a boycott. But this was due to the fact that no one expected dictator Marcos to be dislodged so sud-

denly through a combination of U.S. intervention, the Enrile-Ramos mutiny, and the masses exercising "people's power" in Manila and Quezon City.

To simply relegate the left to the sidelines as Taverna does grossly insults the National Democratic Front. Since 1972 it maintained a militant opposition to Marcos through protracted armed struggle by the heroic forces of the New People's Army. It has been calling for a democratic coalition government.

J.J. Kaufman
Honolulu, Hawaii

Able to pay

I am glad to be able to pay for my subscription again this year and hope this will help you provide subscriptions to prisoners who cannot. My check for \$24 is enclosed.

A prisoner
Stormville, New York

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. Where possible the fund also tries to fill prisoners' requests for other literature. To help this important cause, send your contribution to: Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Pa. abortion rights march set

Regional women's conference backs May 10 Harrisburg action

BY MARY ROCHE

PHILADELPHIA — Continued actions for abortion rights and labor solidarity were two major focuses of the 1986 Mid-Atlantic conference of the National Organization for Women held here April 18-20. More than 350 NOW members from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia attended the plenaries, workshops, and caucuses.

A coalition of Pennsylvania abortion rights activists has called a Pennsylvania March for Women's Lives, Saturday, May 10, at the State Capitol in Harrisburg, at noon.

Pennsylvania NOW is cosponsoring the demonstration, and conference participants were encouraged to attend and build support in their states.

Among the other 60 cosponsors are:

National Abortion Rights Action League of Pennsylvania, Women's Agenda, Planned Parenthood Pennsylvania Advocates, CHOICE, Women's Law Project, Catholics for a Free Choice, Pennsylvania Social Services Union, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, American Civil Liberties Union — Pittsburgh Section, Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force, Philadelphia Black Women's Health Project, League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees — District Council 47, Coalition of One Hundred Black Women, and Hospital and Nursing Home Employees, District Council 1199C.

Leaflets for the march were distributed to conference participants.

NOW President Eleanor Smeal gave a luncheon address on "Assault on Abortion Rights — Extremism on the Rise." She said the women's rights movement must draw the line against the right-wing extremists who are attacking, bombing, and invading abortion clinics. She pointed to the importance of the May 10 demonstration and urged participation in it.

Betty Ann Schwane, a leader of striking TWA flight attendants in Philadelphia, also spoke at the luncheon. She explained that the flight attendants were willing to give back 15 percent of their wages, but that TWA management wanted them to

give back 44 percent in wages and benefits solely because they are women.

Following her remarks, 120 conference participants marched to a nearby TWA office and conducted a spirited picket line in support of the flight attendants. "2, 4, 6, 8, TWA negotiate!" was a popular chant.

A prominent aspect of the conference was the support NOW women gave for this and other important labor struggles. Members of the striking meatpackers of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 in Austin, Minnesota, received a warm welcome.

More than 60 signatures were gathered on a resolution in support of Local P-9's strike against the Geo. A. Hormel Co. Carol Evans, a P-9 striker, spoke at a workshop on organized labor and feminists and explained the issues of the strike. She said women are playing a major role in this labor battle. Buttons, T-shirts, and literature on the boycott of Hormel products that the local is organizing were available at a P-9 table.

The workshop voted unanimously to submit a resolution in support of P-9 and the flight attendants to the entire conference. The resolution was passed at the plenary session.

Many local NOW chapters, as well as



Militant/Ernest Harsch

March 9 abortion rights action in Washington, D.C., of 100,000. Harrisburg action builds on this success.

conferences of the Great Lakes and South Central regions of NOW have also passed resolutions of support for both the P-9 and TWA strikers.

A resolution supporting the housekeepers at Upsala College in East Orange, New Jersey, who were fired and replaced by scabs, was also passed by the plenary. The

housekeepers are all Black, and 25 of them are women. The resolution urged participation in an April 26 support demonstration and stated that the NOW regional director would send a letter of protest to the Upsala College president.

There were also elections for National Board seats and a regional director.

N.J. cop guns down Black youth

BY L. PALTRINERI

NEWARK, N.J. — Michael Harris, a Black teenager, was shot in the back and killed here by cop Wayne Paterno on April 21.

Harris, 17, and a friend were stopped in Newark by cops from nearby Irvington very early that morning as alleged suspects in an attempted armed robbery the previous evening.

Official police reports are calling the shooting an "accident." But neighborhood residents and witnesses to the shooting described the cops' actions differently.

According to an account in the *New York Post*, the two youths were stopped and ordered to spread-eagle against a wall. The

cops were "cussing them out, calling them nigger and stuff," said one witness. He also told the *Post* that Harris had his hands on the wall. He didn't move or say anything.

The police version claims that Harris initially refused to stop when ordered to do so by the cops, and that after being frisked, Harris turned around suddenly, jostling Paterno's gunhand, causing the pistol he was aiming at Harris to discharge accidentally.

Harris' parents don't believe the cops' story. "They shot him in cold blood," said his mother, Grace Harris.

So far no charges have been brought against Paterno, who remains on the Irvington police force. He is currently on va-

cation.

The shooting incident has been turned over to Essex County Prosecutor George Schneider, who has asked for a grand jury investigation. But at a Newark press conference, representatives of the Newark and Irvington NAACP called for the dismissal of Schneider. The NAACP denounced Schneider's public statements — before any hearing had been held — in which he claimed the killing was either accidental or in self-defense.

Keith Jones, president of the Newark NAACP, said, "His [Schneider's] thinking is that the law enforcement officials themselves are the victims, when it is the people who are the victims of excessive, brutal force."

The NAACP conducted its own investigation. The facts exposed sharply dispute the version peddled by both Newark and Irvington officials.

In the meantime, the FBI has begun an investigation at the request of the Harris family.

The great sentiment in the Newark and Irvington Black communities is to bring Paterno to justice.

About 150 people attended Harris' funeral.

On April 27 a protest march took place. It was called by Rev. Al Sharpton of the National Youth Movement of New York.

The march began on the sidewalk where Harris was gunned down and proceeded to police headquarters in downtown Irvington.

Approximately 300 people, mostly Black youth, participated, with many joining the protest in Irvington. People came out on their porches or waved from windows as the marchers passed by singing "We Shall Overcome."

On the steps of police headquarters Sharpton said, "We won't stop 'til justice comes. We are not on vacation. Justice is not on vacation. And somebody has to pay for Michael Harris' life."

The protesters cheered loudly when Grace Harris said she wanted only one thing, "The man who shot my son in the back — that's the one I want to see come to justice."

Gov't escalates attack on Hormel strikers

BY MAGGIE McCRAW

AUSTIN, Minn. — In an escalation of the attacks against striking meatpackers here, U.S. District Court Judge Edward Devitt issued a far-reaching injunction against the strikers on April 23.

The injunction bars striking United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9 from mass picketing at the Hormel plant here. It also prohibits strikers from discouraging scabs from entering the plant. Under the new injunction, strikers cannot "harass," "threaten," or even photograph the scabs.

As far as Hormel is concerned, virtually any attempt to keep scabs out constitutes a threat or harassment.

The latest injunction was requested by Hormel and the Minneapolis office of the National Labor Relations Board. It will be in effect until May 14, when the board will decide if the union's mass picketing in front of the Hormel plant constitutes an "unfair labor practice."

In seeking the injunction, Hormel and the Labor Relations Board claimed that the local cops have been too "overwhelmed and outdone" to enforce previous antiunion injunctions.

Since the original injunction limiting the

number of pickets at the plant gate was issued Dec. 24, 1985, the union has continued to mobilize in peaceful, legal demonstrations. The company, cops, and scabs have attacked the strikers and their supporters.

Since January more than 200 strikers and their supporters have been arrested. The majority of those arrests have been for misdemeanors. However, following a cop riot outside the plant April 11, during which hundreds of strikers and supporters were teargassed, 17 people — including P-9 President Jim Guyette — were arrested on various felony charges.

The latest injunction holds the local's executive board responsible, under threat of fines and jail sentences, for all activities at the plant gate.

Hormel's senior vice-president, Charles Nyberg, hailed the latest injunction. He told the media that this injunction will encourage the company to seek more federal court actions against the union if it holds additional rallies outside the plant.

In a news release the local charged that under the latest injunction, "The workers are being denied the same constitutional rights that all citizens enjoy and use. The

Continued on Page 11



Militant/Tom Jaax

Picketing at Austin Hormel plant gate March 20. Latest injunction prohibits mass picketing or any attempt to stop scabs.